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HEALTH BEHAVIORS AMONG LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN: A COMMUNITY-BASED WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Conducted by

The San Francisco Department of Public Health
AIDS Office
Prevention Services Branch

October 1993

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	6
Study objectives	6
Project team	7
About this report	7
2. METHODOLOGY	8
Sampling procedures	8
Recruitment procedures and questionnaire implementation	9
Instrument design	10
3. DEMOGRAPHICS AND BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS	11
4. HEALTH CARE	13
Pap smears	13
Breast examinations	13
Blood transfusions	13
Health service utilization	14
Health insurance	15
Aid received in past 3 years	15
5. HEALTH CONDITIONS	17
Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)	17
Perceived risk for STDs	17
6. PARENTING	18
Pregnancy	18
Methods of parenting	18
7. HIV PREVENTION	19
HIV prevention messages learned	19
Knowing women with HIV/AIDS	19
8. HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING	21
9. MENTAL HEALTH	22
Counseling and therapy	22
10. SUBSTANCE USE	23
Cigarette smoking	23
Alcohol use	23
Drug use	24
Alcohol and drug rehabilitation	24
11. SEXUAL ATTITUDES	25
12. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR	27
Primary relationships	27
Other sexual relationships	27
Sex with high-risk groups	29
Condom use	29
Spermicidal and contraceptive use	29
Specific sexual behaviors and practices	29
Use of partner's sex toys	31
Use of substances during sex	31
Exchanging sex for money or drugs	32
Impact of AIDS on sexual behavior	32
ATTACHMENT	
Survey instrument	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a health behavioral survey of 483 lesbian and bisexual women conducted by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) AIDS Office Prevention Branch in 1992 and 1993. Women who self-identified as women who have sex with women or women who have sex with women and men were eligible for the survey; Sexual orientation was investigated independently in the study. The questionnaire consisted of seven sections: 1) demographic and background information 2) health care and disease histories 3) exposure to HIV prevention information 4) HIV testing 5) mental health 6) substance use 7) sexual attitudes 8) sexual behavior.

Demographic and Background Characteristics

- Slightly more than three-quarters (77%) of the sample self-identified as lesbians and 19% as bisexual. A small minority (4%) identified as heterosexual or having no sexual orientation.
- Sixty-five percent of respondents identified as Caucasian, 11% as African-American, 11% as Latina, 9% as Asian/Pacific Islander, and 0.8% as Native American. The remaining number of the respondents identified as mixed ethnicities (4%).
- Almost one-quarter (24%) of the sample reported their gross yearly individual income to be less than \$10,000. Another 30% had incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000, and 24% between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Twelve percent reported incomes between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and 7% between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Finally, a small minority (4%) reported incomes of \$50,000 or higher.
- The sample was comparatively well-educated, with 61% reporting a college degree or higher. Six percent had a high school education or less.
- Zip codes of residence reported by respondents indicated that most areas of San Francisco were represented in the survey. However, women tended to cluster in several areas. The most frequent zip code was 94110 (25%), followed by 94114 (21%), and 94117 (14%).

Health Care

- Slightly more than half of the women (52%) had a pap smear within the past year, another quarter (25%) within the past two years, and the remaining 23% more than two years ago.
- Almost 9 in 10 women (89%) have examined their breasts for possible lumps, and more than three-quarters of this group (78%) do so every few months (30% do so every month). Approximately one in five women (21.5%) reported ever having a mammogram, although this varied considerably by age: 57% of women between 35-39 years old and 73% of women over 40. Individuals with

health insurance were also more likely than those without to have had a mammogram screening (25% versus 15%).

- Almost half (44%) of respondents had utilized a women's clinic in the past three years for some type of health service, 44% an emergency room, and 18% a Department of Public Health community clinic.
- Planned Parenthood enjoyed the highest awareness level of specific women's health providers (91%) and Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services the highest usage among respondents (24%).
- Slightly more than one-third of the sample (36%) reported that they currently have no health insurance. Income and work status were significantly correlated with whether respondents had insurance. Individuals in the lowest income group (< \$10,000 per year) had the greatest percentage with no insurance (64%), followed by the next lowest income group (\$10,000-\$20,000 per year) at 43%. More than half (55%) of individuals who are not currently working either full or part time reported not having health insurance as well.
- Slightly more than one-quarter of respondents (28%) received some form of governmental assistance (other than student aid or medicare) in the past three years. Forms of aid included unemployment assistance (16%), disability (7%), food stamps (6%), medicare (4%), welfare (3%), social security (3%), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (0.8%), and other types such as student aid (13%).

Health Conditions

- The most common reported health condition in the past three years was premenstrual syndrome (PMS), experienced by 68% of women. Other frequently reported conditions included: severe cramps during menstruation (44%), weight concerns (39%), irregular periods (29%), heavy or unusual bleeding during menstruation (22%), vaginal rashes or sores (5%), breast lumps or growth (11%), kidney or urinary problems (9%), vaginal lumps or growth (5%), and Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) (5%).
- Almost half (45%) reported at least one STD in their lifetime. The most common reported STDs were gardenerella/non-specific vaginitis (17%), trichomoniasis (16%), genital warts (10%), chlamydia (9%), and herpes (8%). In addition to these STDs, vaginal yeast infections were reported by 74% of women.
- Six percent of women have given birth and 1% have adopted children. Almost two-thirds (62%) of women are considering parenting children either now or in the future, and their planned method(s) for fulfilling this desire are varied. A few women have already utilized or attempted many of the above options: 3.5% have attempted insemination by an unknown donor, 3.5% insemination through sperm bank or private practitioner, 3% had sex with a man for purposes of conception, and 0.4% have tried insemination by a known donor.

HIV Prevention

- Almost all women (99.6%) reported that they have seen or heard some form of HIV prevention message in the last year. The most frequent message was the promotion of safe sex in general (with no specific activity mentioned) (50%), followed by condom promotion (43%). Other frequently mentioned messages were the following: everyone is at risk (20%), needle cleaning/non-sharing (14%), and HIV testing promotion (10%).
- Respondents were also asked whether they recalled any HIV prevention messages which addressed sex between women. Almost two-thirds (62%) reported that they had seen or heard such messages. Among women who recalled these messages, the most frequently mentioned was the promotion of specific safe-sex activities (51%), followed by lesbians are at risk (23%) and women are at risk (22%). HIV testing was recalled by 2% of respondents.
- Slightly more than one-third (37%) of the sample reported that they know at least one woman who has HIV or AIDS, and 14% said that they know of at least one woman who has died of AIDS.

HIV Counseling and Testing

- Almost two-thirds of women (64%) reported that they had received an HIV antibody test since 1985, when the test first was offered. One woman reported an HIV-positive result, representing 0.2% of the sample.
- Women who had not been HIV tested were asked why. About half (51%) of this group felt that they were not at risk at all, 22% said that they did not want to know their HIV status, and 11% gave the reason that they were in a monogamous relationship.

Mental Health

- General anxiety or stress and depression were clearly the most commonly experienced, with 94% reporting being stressed in the past three years and 86% reporting at least one episode of depression.
- Slightly over one-third (35%) experienced some form of physical abuse or battering in their lifetime, and 13% reported it happening in the past three years. Emotional abuse was more common, with 66% reporting it ever occurring and 37% experiencing it in the past three years. Suicidal thoughts at some point in life were reported by 56%, with 32% experiencing them in the past three years.
- Four in ten (40%) women reported childhood sexual abuse or molestation.
- Slightly more than two-thirds (68%) of women reported that they have discussed issues regarding their sexual orientation in a counseling or therapy session. Awareness of counseling programs specifically targeting lesbian and bisexual women was relatively high (59%). Programs mentioned included

Operation Concern (33%), the IRIS Project (16%), and the Berkeley Pacific Center (6%).

Substance Use

- About one-third (31%) of women reported that they currently smoke cigarettes, and another 56% say that they regularly smoked at some point in the lives. Young women aged 18-24 years-old and African American women are more likely to be current smokers (40% in both groups.)
- Eighty-two percent of women reported that they consume alcoholic beverages at least a few times per year. Among women who drink, 37% report that they typically have one drink at a time. Another 53% have two to three drinks, and 10% have four or more drinks on the average.
- About three quarters (73%) have used at least one substance in the past three years. The most common substance was marijuana (67%), followed by MDA/ecstasy (23%), LSD/psychedelics (22%), cocaine - not including crack (21%), downers such as Quaaludes or valium (14%), and uppers such as speed or crystal (14%).
- Injection drug use in the past three years was reported by 2.3%.
- One in ten women have been or are currently in some type of formal drug or alcohol treatment program: 3% in alcohol treatment, 5% in drug treatment, and 2% in both.

Sexual Behavior

- Almost all women (98%) reported having sex with either a male or female or both in the past three years. Six in ten women (60%) reported that they had sex only with women in the past three years, 5% had sex only with men, and 33% had sex with both women and men.
- Self-identified lesbians were more likely than bisexual women to have had sex only with women (73%), but 22% of them reported sex with both men and women, 3% with just men, and 1% no sex at all in the past three years. Seven in ten (71%) bisexual women reported having sex with both women and men, 12% with men only, another 12% with women only, and 4% no sex at all.
- Nearly three quarters (72%) of women have been in at least one primary sexual relationship with a woman in the past three years. Seven percent report a primary relationship with a man, 11% have had both women and men as primary partners, and 8% have had neither in the past three years.
- Three-quarters (75%) of women reported that they have had sex with more than one individual in the past three years. About one-third (36%) have had sex with two to three women, 17% with four to six women, and 14% with over seven women in the past three years.

- Slightly more than one in ten (12%) women report that they have had sex with a woman they know or believe has used injection drugs.
- Seventeen percent reported that they had sex with one man in the past three years, another 12% with two to three men, and 7% with four or more.
- Slightly more than one in ten (11%) women reported that they have had sex with a gay or bisexual man in the past three years. This was far more common among bisexual women (34%) than lesbian women (5%).
- Five percent of women reported that they have had sex with a man they know or believe has used injection drugs in the past three years. This was more prevalent among bisexual women (14%) as opposed to lesbians (1.6%) as well as among young women aged 18 to 24 years-old (11%).
- Almost half (47%) of women who have had sex with men in the past three years reported that they always use condoms, 37% said sometimes, 8% rarely, and 8% never.
- The most commonly used spermicide or contraceptive among women having sex with men was nonoxynol-9 lubrication used by 43%, followed by the pill (24%). Other forms included spermicidal foam (22%), a diaphragm (18%), cervical cap (1%), and an intrauterine device (IUD) (0.6%).
- Usage of barriers (e.g. gloves, latex) with oral sex and fingers in the vagina and/or anus was consistently practiced by fewer women than the same behaviors without barriers in the past three years. In fact, the most common sexual behavior with a barrier - fingers in the vagina - was practiced only by 35% of women with their primary partners and 38% of women with their secondary partners.
- Unprotected vaginal intercourse was also very common among women: 70% among those with male primary partners and 43% among those with secondary partners.
- Slightly over half (53%) of women with male primary partners report that they have engaged in oral sex and swallowed the semen of their partner. This behavior was also relatively high (26%) among women with secondary male partners.
- Unprotected anal sex was more common among women with their primary male partner than their secondary ones (21% versus 10%)
- Seven in ten (70%) women said that they have been high, buzzed, or wired on alcohol or some other drug during sex in the past three years. The most common substance was alcohol, used by 62% of women during sex, followed by marijuana (33%), MDA/ecstasy (8%), cocaine - not including crack (8%), uppers such as speed or crystal (6%), LSD/psychedelics (4%), heroin (2%), and crack cocaine (1%).

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report presents the findings of a health behavioral survey of 483 lesbian and bisexual women conducted by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) AIDS Office Prevention Services Branch in 1992-1993. The survey represents the most recent in a series of knowledge, attitude, and behaviors (KABB) surveys of various population groups sponsored by the AIDS Office since 1984.¹ All previous surveys were contracted to survey research firms for implementation and analyses; The current survey is the first of its type to have been conducted by an in-house SFDPH AIDS Office research team in collaboration with a community-based advisory group.

This project is the result of growing concern among SFDPH and community-based health providers that a deficient amount of valid and reliable information existed on health behaviors among lesbian and bisexual women to adequately serve the health needs of this community. Exclusively heterosexual women have been research subjects of numerous investigations, including the KABB surveys sponsored by the AIDS Office. While lesbian and bisexual women were not excluded from these studies, their participation rates were low because of random survey sampling procedures which did not specifically target them.

The project was initially conceptualized to investigate sexual and drug-using behaviors which place women at risk for HIV. However, the project team soon reached consensus that the study should be more comprehensive in coverage and scope. Thus, the final instrument (attached as an addendum to this report) consisted of seven sections: 1) demographic and background information 2) health care and disease histories 3) exposure to HIV prevention information 4) HIV Testing 5) mental health 6) substance use 7) sexual attitudes 8) sexual behavior.

Study Objectives

The project had the following major objectives:

1. To provide baseline measurements of:

- a) a variety of health behaviors including sexual behaviors and substance use
- b) health care and service utilization of DPH and community-based organizations including HIV testing, mammograms, self-care, and DPH and community-based services
- c) recent disease histories and health concerns including sexually-transmitted diseases, cancer, alcoholism, drug abuse

¹ Previous KABB surveys have been conducted among the following communities in San Francisco: Gay and bisexual men, Gay and bisexual men of color; Southeast Asians in the Tenderloin; African Americans; Latinos; Asians (Japanese and Chinese); High-risk heterosexuals.

2. To measure exposure to HIV prevention messages targeting women, specifically lesbian and bisexual women
3. To identify correlates of high-risk behaviors which will assist in program planning and developing interventions

Project Team

This study was implemented by the SFDPH AIDS Office Prevention Services Branch with significant input and contributions from a community advisory committee formed in Spring 1992. Stephen Mills, MPH, Assistant Chief, Prevention Services Branch and epidemiologist, served as principal investigator and Delia Garcia, MSW, health program manager, directed all phases of the project. Other staff included: Tia Martinez, assistant project director, and Ruben, statistician. The following individuals served as recruiters and/or interviewers: Donna Zabavski, Heather Hamilton, Georgette Reid, Amy Symons, Alba Barreto, Maree Kay Parisi, Katie Young, Lisa Graybill, Kristin Riley-Lagos.

The SFDPH Community Advisory Committee consisted of Carmen Vasquez, SFDPH Gay and Lesbian Health Coordinator; Pat Stevens, PhD, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF); Amanda Newstetter, Planned Parenthood; Brenda Storey, Mission Neighborhood Health Center; Carol Dawson, UCSF; Melissa Jones, SFDPH AIDS Office; Marj Plumb, Lyon-Martin Women's Center; Lani Kaahumanu, Lyon-Martin Women's Center; Luna Hanoval, San Francisco City Clinic; Yvonne Littleton, Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc.; Caroline Lee, Asian AIDS Project; Lea Sanchez, Project AWARE; Lisa Stanley, IRIS Project; Coletta Reid, IRIS Project; Willy Wilkinson, Asian AIDS Project.

The project team is especially grateful to Dr. Sandra Hernandez, SFDPH AIDS Office Director at the beginning of the study and currently County Health Officer and Deputy Director, Community Public Health Services and AIDS, who appropriated funding for the project. Valerie Kegebein, MPH, Chief, AIDS Office Prevention Services Branch, provided staff time and a supportive work environment to complete the project.

About this Report

The organization of the results in this report mirrors the sequence of the items in the questionnaire instrument (see attached) in all but a few instances. Results based on the entire sample are presented for all questions, and differences among the following groups are given for most questions when they are significant at the 95% level of confidence:² sexual orientation (lesbian, bisexual), ethnicity (Caucasian, African American, Latina, Asian/Pacific Islander), age. Depending on the item under analysis, comparisons with other substantively significant variables may be highlighted.

²The 95% level of confidence refers to statistical likelihood that the observed differences are not by chance but rather indicative of real differences in the populations of interest.

2. METHODOLOGY

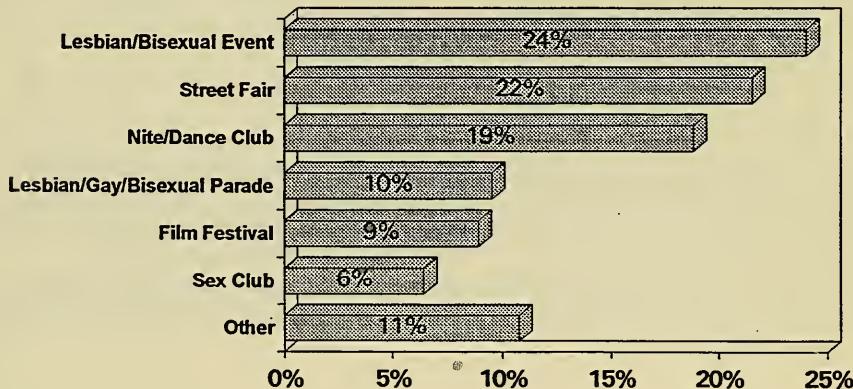
Sampling procedures

This study consisted of 483 interviews conducted with an convenience sample of women at least 18-years-old who self-identified as women who have sex with women or women who have sex with women and men. These women were recruited from street and community locations in San Francisco. Interviews lasted approximately one hour and were conducted between July and December 1992. Respondents were given \$30 as an incentive for participation in the survey.

An ideal random sample of lesbian and bisexual women in San Francisco would permit the results of this study to be generalizable to the universe of lesbian and bisexual women in San Francisco. However, true random samples require that all individuals who meet the sampling criteria have an equal chance of being selected for the survey. Given the high costs associated with a telephone recruitment procedure which would produce a questionably valid random sample because of the sensitive nature of the study questions, the project team opted for a street and community-based convenience sampling method.

This method necessitated the determination of street and community locations from which to recruit women who meet the sampling criteria. Two focus groups of lesbian and bisexual women were conducted to determine where lesbian and bisexual women, including ethnic sub-groups, congregate, socialize, and hang out. Sampling locations used and the percentage of women recruited from each site are summarized in Table 1. Sampling sites included locations where large numbers and a corresponding diversity of women congregate such as street fairs and film festivals; They also included locations such as sex clubs which attract smaller groups.

Figure 1. SAMPLING SITES



The resulting sample can best be described as representative of *socially active* lesbian and bisexual women in San Francisco, since the sampling most likely underrepresents women who do not attend social events or congregate in areas where behaviorally homosexual or bisexual women are welcome and accepted.

With a sample size of 483, results are projectable to the universe of socially active women who have sex with women in San Francisco within plus or minus 4.4% at the 95% level of confidence. For example, if 55% is presented as the percentage of women who engage in a certain behavior, the 95% confidence interval is between 50.6% and 59.4%. In fact, error varies depending on the distribution of responses on any given item. For example, it is greater on an item where responses are distributed evenly between categories than on items where responses are heavily skewed one way or another.

Recruitment procedures and questionnaire implementation

At each sampling site, trained recruiters from the SFDPH defined a sampling frame (e.g. women who walk by a designated object, a line waiting for a film) and then identified and approached women according to a predetermined respondent selection method (e.g. every fifth women). This selection method varied according to the number of women at a given site.

Recruiters identified themselves as members of a SFDPH survey team interviewing women for a women's health survey. Potential respondents were asked first whether they were residents of San Francisco and then, if yes, handed a card which solicited their participation in the "first anonymous survey of women who have sex with women or women who have sex with women and men." *The sexual orientations of "lesbian" and "bisexual" were purposely omitted in order avoid refusals based upon these labels and to investigate the relationship of perceived sexual orientation with sexual behavior in the study itself.* Women were also told at the point of contact that they would receive \$30 for their participation in the survey.

Individuals agreeing to participate were asked to keep the card and call the telephone number on the card to set up an appointment for the interview. They were also asked to provide their telephone numbers so that the project team could make reminder phone calls, but they were not required to provide this information. Women who called were given an appointment time to appear at 25 Van Ness office of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. At the time of the appointment, trained interviewers introduced the study, obtained informed consent, and emphasized that respondents could stop the interview at any time. At the conclusion of the interview, respondents were given \$30, safer sex supplies, and referrals to health care and HIV testing.

The following summarizes the recruitment and sampling statistics for the study:

- a. Number of eligible women sampled: 760
- b. Number of women agreeing to participate: 674
- c. Number of women completing questionnaire: 483

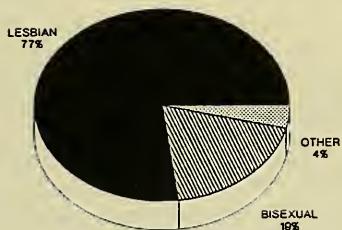
Response rate = c+a = 483÷760 = 64%

Instrument design

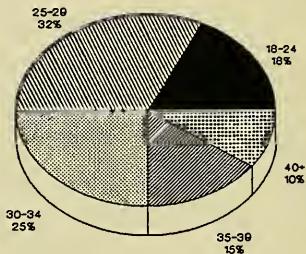
The instrument used in the survey was designed by conducting focus groups of lesbian and bisexual women to illicit health issues and concerns as well as by reviewing the few existing studies of this population. The final 113-item questionnaire was pre-tested among a sample of 22 women to insure clarity and coverage of issues.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

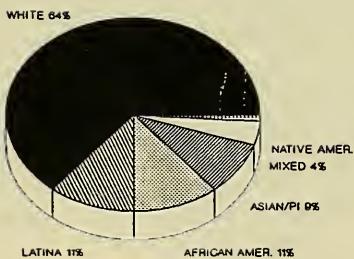
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



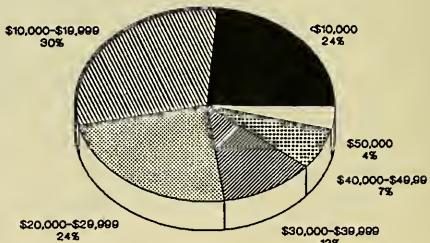
AGE IN YEARS



ETHNICITY



INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL INCOME



3. DEMOGRAPHIC AND BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Sexual Orientation. Respondents were asked an open-ended question regarding their sexual orientation. Slightly more than three-quarters (77%) of the sample identified as lesbians and 19% as bisexual. A small minority (4%) identified as heterosexual or having no sexual orientation. Women aged 18-24 years-old were more likely to identify as bisexual than older women (34% versus 15%).

Age. The mean age of respondents was 30.6 years indicating a relatively young sample. Eighteen percent of the sample was between 18 and 24 years-old, 32% between 25 and 29 years-old, 25% between 30 and 34 years-old, 15% between 35 and 39 year-old, and 10% 40 years-old or older.

Ethnicity. Sixty-five percent of respondents identified as Caucasian, 11% as African-American, 11% as Latina, 9% as Asian/Pacific Islander, and 0.8% as Native American. The remaining number of the respondents identified as mixed ethnicities (4%).

The small sample size among Native Americans (N=4) makes an analysis of this group unfeasible. Thus, comparisons between ethnicities in this report will include only Caucasian, African-American, Latina, and Asian/Pacific Islander women.

Education. Educational attainment levels of respondents were relatively high, with almost two-thirds (61%) of the sample having a college degree or higher. Thirty-two percent had experienced some college with no degree, 4% had a high school diploma, and 2% had not completed high school.

Almost one in five respondents (19%) reported that they are currently students or taking classes.

Employment Status and Occupation. Slightly more than 6 in 10 respondents (62%) reported being employed full-time, 22% are in part-time positions, and 16% reported being unemployed at the time of the interview.

Almost half of the sample (45%) reported engaging in occupations at the professional or technical level. Sixteen percent are employed as salespeople or clerks, 13% are in service positions, and 9% are managers in companies or proprietors of their own firms. The remainder are in craftworker/foremen positions (3%), labor/agriculture (3%), and other (4%) positions.

Income. Almost one-quarter (24%) of the sample reported their gross yearly individual income to be less than \$10,000. Another 30% had incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000, and 24% between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Twelve percent reported incomes between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and 7% between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Finally, a small minority (4%) reported incomes of \$50,000 or higher.

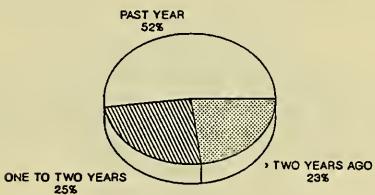
Zip code of residence. Zip codes of residence reported by respondents indicated that most areas of San Francisco were represented in the survey. However, women tended to cluster in several areas. The most frequent zip code was 94110

(25%), followed by 94114 (21%), and 94117 (14%). The remaining areas had less than 10% representation in the survey.

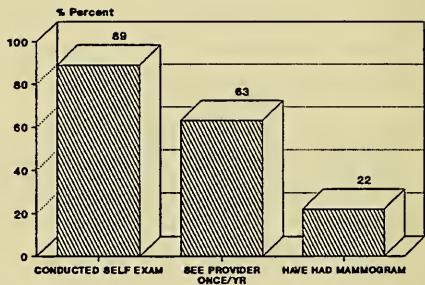
Living Situation. Slightly more than 9 in 10 (91%) respondents reported renting an apartment or home and 6% reported owning their own home. A small minority (0.6%) were homeless or lived in a hotel (0.4%).

Slightly more than 4 in 10 respondents (43%) live with a roommate or friend, 30% live with their partner/lover, 22% live alone, and 5% live with their family.

LAST PAP SMEAR AMONG WOMEN HAVING PROCEDURE (93% OF SAMPLE)



BREAST CARE



4. HEALTH CARE

Pap smears

Slightly more than 9 in 10 (93%) women have had a pap smear at least once in their lives. Women aged 35-years or older have unanimously (100%) undergone this procedure and even the youngest group (aged 18-24 years) reported a high rate (89%). Asian/Pacific Islander women are significantly less likely to have had a pap smear (76%) than women of other ethnicities.

Slightly more than half of the women (52%) had a pap smear within the past year, another quarter (25%) within the past two years, and the remaining 23% more than two years ago. Asian/Pacific Islander women, however, were less likely to have had a pap smear in the recent past. Almost one in three (32%) had the procedure conducted more than two years ago.

Having health insurance had no effect on whether an individual had undergone a pap smear or not.

Breast Examinations

Self Examinations. Almost 9 in 10 women (89%) have examined their breasts for possible lumps, and more than three-quarters of this group (78%) do so every few months (30% do so every month).

Examinations by a Health Provider. Even more women (97%) reported having a health care provider examine their breasts at least once, and 85% have had this done within the past two years. Almost two-thirds (63%) said that they see a health care provider at least once a year for a breast examination.

Mammogram Screenings. Approximately one in five women (21.5%) reported ever having a mammogram, although this varied considerably by age, with women over 35 reporting substantively higher rates of the procedure: Only 3% of 18-24 year-olds, 9% of 25-29 year-olds, 12% of 30-35 year-olds, 57% of 36-40 year-olds, and 73% of women over 40 have had a mammogram.

Individuals with health insurance were more likely than those without to have had a mammogram screening (25% versus 15%).

Blood transfusions

Six percent of women reported ever having a blood transfusion, although this was much more common among women over 40 years-old (21%).

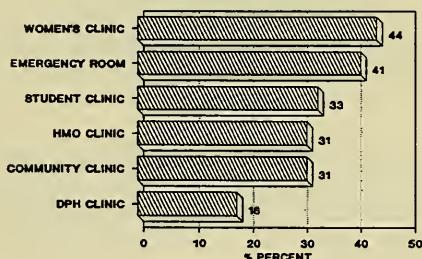
Health Service Utilization

Utilization of different types of health providers varied. The most frequently used provider in the past three years was a private physician's office (63%), followed by a women's health clinic (44%). Other frequent responses included: hospital emergency room (41%), college/student health clinic (33%), HMO hospital based clinic (31%), community clinic (31%), and a Department of Public Health community clinic (18%).

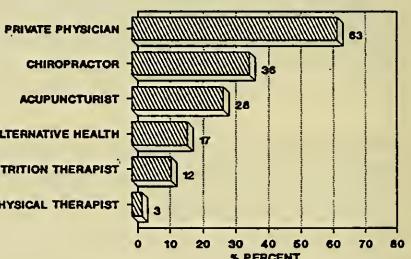
Respondents also reported utilization in the past three years of chiropractors (36%), acupuncturists (28%), nutrition counselors (12%), alternative health practitioners (17%), and physical therapists (3%).

Specific Providers. Planned Parenthood enjoyed the highest awareness level (91%) and was used by 14% of respondents in the past three years. Operation Concern was also well-known (67% awareness) and had been used by 11%. Almost half (46%) were aware of Lyon Martin Women's Health Services and 24% had utilized the clinic. The Women's Needs Center was known by slightly over half (56%) with 15% having visited the Center. Finally, 46% were aware of the IRIS Project of the Women's Institute, and 5% had utilized the services in the past three years.

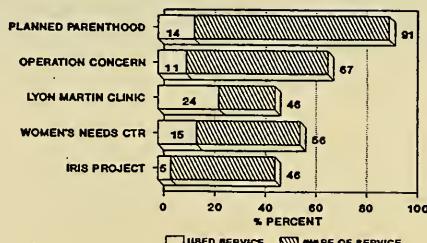
USAGE OF PROVIDERS
IN PAST THREE YEARS



USAGE OF INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS
IN PAST THREE YEARS



AWARENESS AND USAGE OF
SPECIFIC CLINICS IN PAST 3 YRS



Health Insurance

Slightly more than one-third of the sample (36%) reported that they currently have no health insurance. This varied by ethnic group, with Asian/Pacific Islanders having the least number uninsured (17%). The remaining ethnic groups did not significantly differ: Caucasians (35%), African Americans (40%), Latinas (42%).

Income and work status, two highly related items, were significantly correlated with whether respondents had insurance. Individuals in the lowest income group (< \$10,000 per year) had the greatest percentage with no insurance (64%), followed by the next lowest income group (\$10,000-\$20,000 per year) at 43%. More than half (55%) of individuals who are not currently working either full or part time reported not having health insurance as well.

The most common forms of insurance include an HMO or preferred provider/pre-paid plan, reported by slightly more than one-third (37%), private health insurance (22%), and Medical or Medicare (1%).

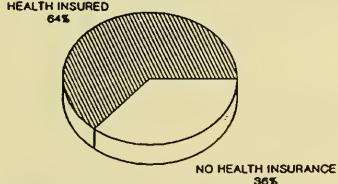
Among women who have some form of health insurance, 67% receive it paid from their employer, 18% pay for it themselves, and 15% have it paid by another person or organization.

Aid received in past 3 years

Slightly more than one-quarter of respondents (28%) received some form of governmental assistance (other than student aid or medicare) in the past three years. Assistance was higher to African Americans (40%) and Latinas (34%), and lowest among Caucasians (27%) and Asians (15%). Women aged 40-years or older also reported significantly higher rates of assistance (42%).

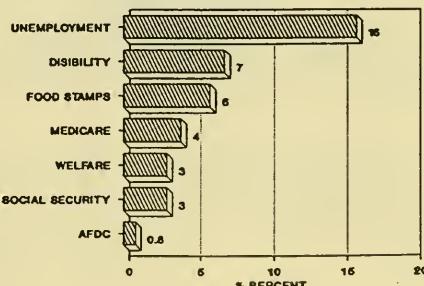
Forms of aid included unemployment assistance (16%), disability (7%), food stamps (6%), medicare (4%), welfare (3%), social security (3%), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (0.8%), and other types such as student aid (13%).

HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS

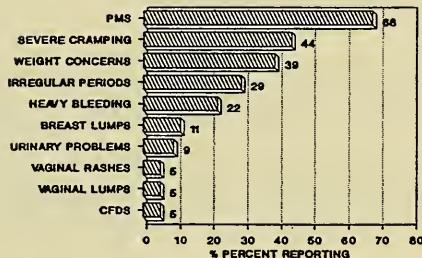


64% OF LOW INCOME WOMEN HAVE NO HEALTH INSURANCE
65% OF THE UNEMPLOYED HAVE NO HEALTH INSURANCE

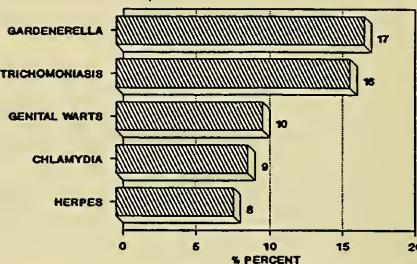
AID RECEIVED IN PAST THREE YEARS



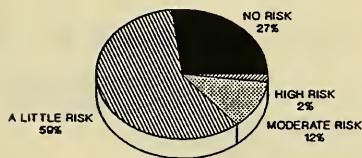
MOST COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN PAST THREE YEARS



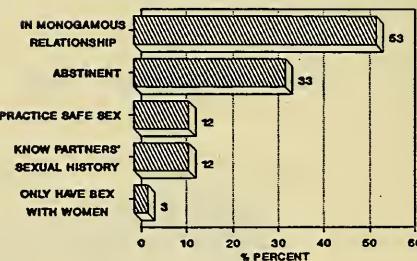
LIFETIME STD HISTORY (% REPORTING AT LEAST ONE DIAGNOSIS)



PERCEIVED RISK FOR STDs



REASONS FOR PERCEIVED NO RISK FOR STDs



5. HEALTH CONDITIONS

Respondents were asked whether they currently experience or have experienced in the past three years a variety of health and disease conditions. The most common reported condition was premenstrual syndrome (PMS), experienced by 68% of women. Other frequently reported conditions included: severe cramps during menstruation (44%), weight concerns (39%), irregular periods (29%), heavy or unusual bleeding during menstruation (22%), vaginal rashes or sores (5%), breast lumps or growth (11%), kidney or urinary problems (9%), vaginal lumps or growth (5%), and Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) (5%).

13% of women reported that they currently have a condition which they consider to be a disability.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Almost two-thirds of women (62%) reported having been screened for sexually transmitted diseases at least once. (check) Almost half (45%) reported at least one STD in their lifetime.³ This rate was significantly higher among Asian/Pacific Islanders (70%) and African Americans (64%). History of at least one STD also increased with age (67% of women over 40), but even the youngest age group (18-24 years) reported a significant STD history (33%). There were no significant differences between lesbian and bisexual women.

The most common reported STDs were gardenerella/non-specific vaginitis (17%), trichomoniasis (16%), genital warts (10%), chlamydia (9%), and herpes (8%). In addition to these STDs, vaginal yeast infections were reported by 74% of women.

Perceived Risk for STDs. Most women feel little risk in contracting sexually transmitted diseases. A full quarter of women (27%) perceive no risk at all, another 59% feel only a little risk, 12% feel a moderate risk, and only 2% think of themselves at high risk.

Women were asked why they felt their reported risk level for STDs. The most common responses among women who felt no risk was that they were in a monogamous relationship (53%) or that they have been abstinent (33%). Other reasons for feeling no risk included always practicing safe sex (12%), knowing their partners' sexual history or discussing it with them (12%), and only having sex with women (3%).

Women who felt a moderate or high risk of contracting STDs cited the following reasons: having unsafe sex (31%), having multiple sex partners (25%), and feeling that everyone is at risk (22%).

Respondents were asked where they would go to inform themselves about STDs. The most common responses were: books or a library (26%), women's specific organizations (25%), medical doctor (22%), Lyon Martin Women's Health Services (18%), other clinics (18%), and family or friends (11%).

³ Included STDs are trichomoniasis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, pelvic inflammatory disease, syphilis, herpes, genital warts, gardenerella/non specific vaginitis

6. PARENTING

Pregnancy. Slightly more than one-quarter of the sample (27%) reported being pregnant at least once. This was highest among women over 40 (54%), bisexual women (39%), African Americans (34%), and Latinas (32%) and lowest among Caucasians (27%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (10%).

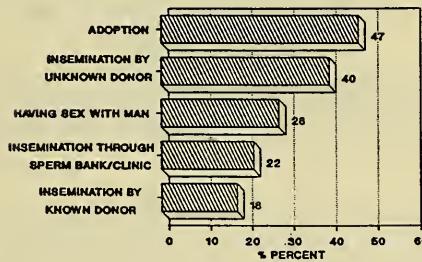
Six percent of women have given birth and 1% have adopted children. Among women who currently are raising children, approximately half (51%) have one child, 30% have two, and 29% have three or more children.

Methods of Parenting. Almost two-thirds (62%) of women are considering parenting children either now or in the future, and their planned method(s) for fulfilling this desire are varied. The most common considered method was adoption, preferred by 47%, followed by insemination by an unknown donor (40%). Slightly more than one quarter (28%) said that they would consider having sex with a man, and 22% reported that they would seek insemination through a sperm bank or private practitioner. Eighteen percent would consider insemination by a known donor.

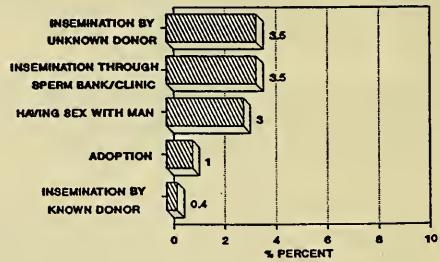
A few women have already utilized or attempted many of the above options: 3.5% have attempted insemination by an unknown donor, 3.5% insemination through sperm bank or private practitioner, 3% had sex with a man for purposes of conception, and 0.4% have tried insemination by a known donor.

In building a family, 57% of women report that they plan to co-parent their child(ren) with another woman, while 28% report that they plan to co-parent with a man.

METHODS OF PARENTING CHILDREN
UNDER CONSIDERATION



METHODS OF PARENTING CHILDREN
ALREADY ATTEMPTED



7. HIV PREVENTION

Almost all women (99.6%) reported that they have seen or heard some form of HIV prevention message in the last year. The most common medium was television (62%), followed by buses or bus shelters (49%), newspapers and magazines (44%), radio (36%), brochures and fliers (34%), and gay/lesbian media (23%). Remarkably little was seen in bars (3%), in the workplace (5%), and at street fairs (7%).

HIV Prevention Messages Learned. Respondents were asked what they saw, heard, or learned from the HIV prevention they remembered. The specific information gained from the HIV prevention messages varied considerably. The most frequent message was the promotion of safe sex in general - no specific activity (50%), followed by condom promotion (43%). Other frequently mentioned messages were the following: everyone is at risk (20%), needle cleaning/non-sharing (14%), HIV testing promotion (10%), people of color/minorities at risk (6%), relationship between drinking alcohol and high-risk behavior (6%), lesbians are at risk (4%), and specific safe sex activities (4%).

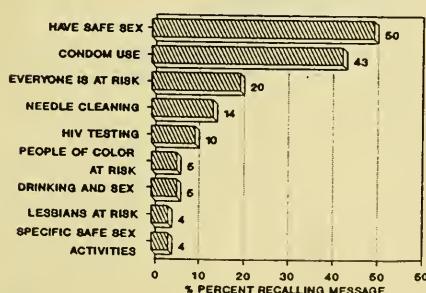
Respondents were also asked whether they recalled any HIV prevention messages which addressed sex between women. Almost two-thirds (62%) reported that they had seen or heard such messages. There were no significant differences between ethnic, age, and sexual orientation groups.

Among women who recalled these messages, the most frequently mentioned was the promotion of specific safe-sex activities (51%), followed by lesbians are at risk (23%) and women are at risk (22%). HIV testing was recalled by 2% of respondents.

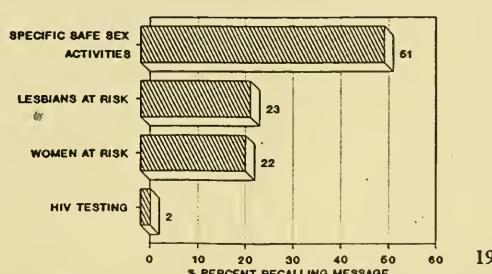
Knowing women with HIV/AIDS. Slightly more than one-third (37%) of the sample reported that they know at least one woman who has HIV or AIDS, and 14% said that they know of at least one woman who has died of AIDS. Latinas and African Americans and Latinas were more likely to know a women with HIV/AIDS (48% and 43%) than Caucasians and Asian/Pacific Islanders (36% and 20%).

Differences were also significant between women of different ages. Almost half (48%) of women over 40 know a women with HIV/AIDS whereas only 27% of younger women aged 18 to 24 years say the same. This age pattern is evident for knowing a woman who has died of AIDS as well.

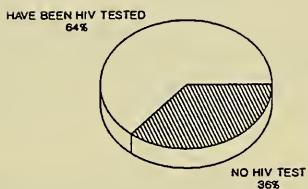
HIV PREVENTION MESSAGES RECALLED



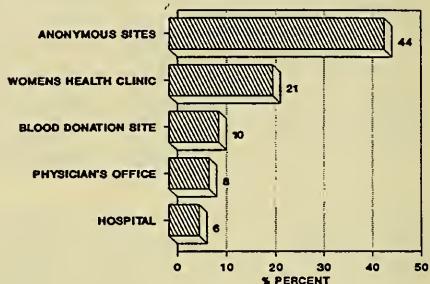
HIV PREVENTION MESSAGES ADDRESSING SEX BETWEEN WOMEN RECALLED



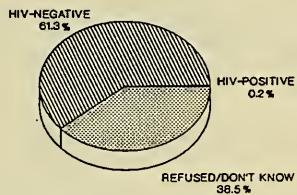
HIV ANTIBODY TESTING



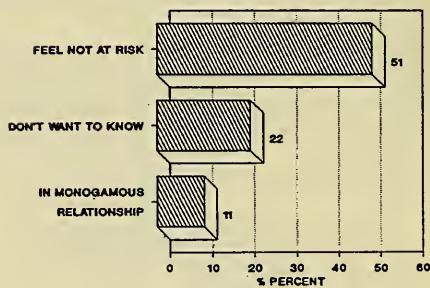
SITES WHERE WOMEN WERE HIV TESTED



SELF-REPORTED HIV STATUS



REASONS WHY NOT HIV TESTED



8. HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING

Almost two-thirds of women (64%) reported that they had received an HIV antibody test since 1985, when the test first was offered. There were no significant differences between ethnicities, age groups, or sexual orientations.

Most women have had their HIV antibody tests during the past two years as opposed to when the test first was offered. Almost half of women (42%) who have been tested did so in 1992, with another quarter (24%) in 1991. Only 5% reported being tested before 1987.

Almost half of HIV tested women (44%) received their tests from HIV anonymous testing sites and a further 21% from a women's health clinic. Other locations included blood donation sites (10%), a physician's office (8%), and a hospital (6%).

Although pre- and post-test counseling is mandatory at anonymous testing sites, it is not at other sites. Of all women tested, 29% reported that they had neither pre- nor post-test counseling.

When asked how comfortable they felt with the pre/post test counseling they received, about half (54%) said they were very comfortable, 20% felt comfortable, and 13% felt neither comfortable nor uncomfortable. One in ten felt uncomfortable, and 4% said the pre/post test counseling experience made them feel very uncomfortable.

About half (51%) of those tested have only been tested once, and another 23% have been tested twice. Nineteen percent have been tested 3 to 5 times, and the remaining 7% have been tested more than 5 times.

One woman reported a HIV-positive result, representing 0.2% of the sample.

A solid majority of women expressed that they will seek HIV testing in the future. Slightly more than half (56%) said that it is very likely they will be tested, and 23% said it is somewhat likely.

Women who had not been HIV tested were asked why. About half (51%) of this group felt that they were not at risk at all, 22% said that they did not want to know their HIV status, and 11% gave the reason that they were in a monogamous relationship.

9. MENTAL HEALTH

Respondents were asked whether had experienced a variety of stressors which may affect their mental health. General anxiety or stress and depression were clearly the most commonly experienced, with 94% reporting being stressed in the past three years and 86% reporting depression.

Stressors in the work environment were also prevalent. Seven in ten women (71%) had experienced job discrimination at work at some point in their life, and 49% had experienced it in the past three years. Similarly, 64% reported some form of harassment on the job (42% in the past three years).

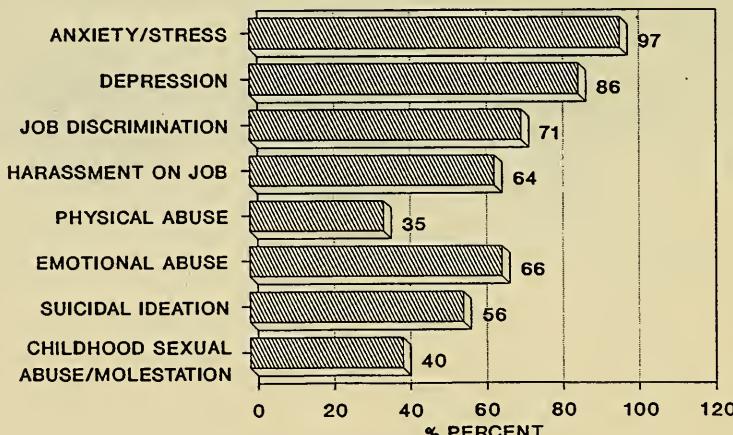
Slightly over one-third (35%) experienced some form of physical abuse or battering, and 13% reported it happening in the past three years. Emotional abuse was more common, with 66% reporting it ever occurring and 37% experiencing it in the past three years. Suicidal thoughts at some point in life were reported by 56%, with 32% experiencing them in the past three years.

Finally, four in ten (40%) women reported childhood sexual abuse or molestation.

Counseling and Therapy. Slightly more than two-thirds (68%) of women reported that they have discussed issues regarding their sexual orientation in a counseling or therapy session. Of these women, 79% felt that their counselor was sensitive to lesbian and bisexual issues and concerns.

Awareness of counseling programs specifically targeting lesbian and bisexual women was relatively high (59%). Programs mentioned included Operation Concern (33%), the IRIS Project (16%), and the Berkeley Pacific Center (6%).

STRESSORS EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONCE IN LIFETIME



10. SUBSTANCE USE

Cigarette smoking. About one-third (31%) of women reported that they currently smoke cigarettes, and 56% say that they regularly smoked at some point in the lives. Young women aged 18-24 years-old and African American women are more likely to be current smokers (40% in both groups.)

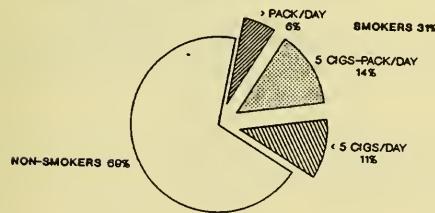
Slightly more than one-third (36%) of women smokers smoke 5 or fewer cigarettes per day on the average. Forty-Four percent smoke more than 5 but less than one pack per day, and 20 % smoke a pack of cigarettes or more.

Slightly more than one quarter (27%) of respondents reported that they currently live with a smoker. However, current smokers were far more likely to be living with another smoker than current non-smokers (42% versus 18%).

Alcohol. Eighty-two percent of women reported that they consume alcoholic beverages at least a few times per year. Four percent say they drink every day, and 22% report that they do so 2 to 3 times per week. Another 20% drink about once a week.

Among women who drink, 37% report that they typically have one drink at a time. Another 53% have two to three drinks, and 10% have 4 or more drinks on the average.

CIGARETTE SMOKING



TYPICAL ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION



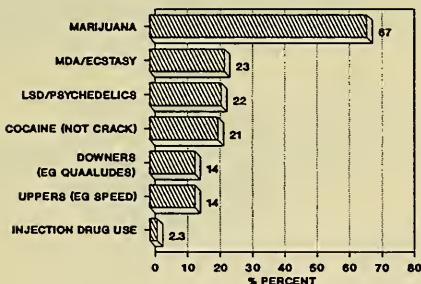
Drug Use. About three quarters (73%) have used at least one substance in the past three years. The most common substance was marijuana (67%), followed by MDA/ecstasy (23%), LSD/psychedelics (22%), cocaine - not including crack (21%), downers such as Quaaludes or valium (14%), and uppers such as speed or crystal (14%).

Injection drug use in the past three years was reported by 2.3%, and 100% of these individuals said that they had not shared their needles or works with others, and 91% (all injection drug users except one) said that they clean their needles/works with bleach. 73% of IDUs reported that they or someone for them has exchanged needles at a needle exchange program. Of these IDUs, 50% say they always exchange at such a program.

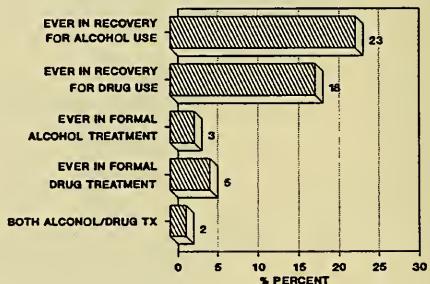
Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation. About one in ten women (12%) consider themselves to be currently in recovery for alcohol use and another 11% say they have been in recovery in the past. Twelve percent report that they are currently in recovery for drug use, and another 6% say they have been in recovery in the past.

One in ten women have been or are currently in some type of formal drug or alcohol treatment program: 3% in alcohol treatment, 5% in drug treatment, and 2% in both.

DRUGS USED IN PAST THREE YEARS



ALCOHOL AND DRUG REHABILITATION



11. SEXUAL ATTITUDES

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed (and to what degree) with a battery of sexual attitudinal statements. These results are summarized below.

	<u>% Agreeing with Statement</u>
<i>Risk Perception</i>	
My sexual behavior keeps me at low risk for contracting HIV	84
I am afraid I will contract HIV	34
Sex between women is a low risk for contracting HIV	64
My sexual behavior keeps me at low risk for contracting sexually transmitted diseases other than HIV	84
The AIDS information that I've read or heard about suggests to me that I should not worry about AIDS or HIV	28
<i>Communication about HIV/AIDS</i>	
My women friends discuss AIDS on a regular basis	63
Women who have sex with women talk about safe sex with their women sex partners	48
My friends encourage me to practice safe sex	61
<i>Peer Norms</i>	
Women who have sex with women generally protect themselves from getting sexually-transmitted diseases from other women	17
Most women who have sex with women have changed their behavior to reduce their chances of contracting HIV	33
Many of my women friends have unsafe sex	70
<i>Other</i>	
I feel adequately informed about a woman's risk for contracting HIV	67
If I need condoms, I feel comfortable purchasing them	85
If I need latex gloves or dental dams, I know where to find them	80
The AIDS epidemic has greatly impacted me personally	87
It is important to me that my health-care providers know my sexual orientation	87

Risk Perception. As reflected in several of the risk perception statements, women in general do not feel at high risk for HIV nor for other sexually transmitted diseases. Most (Over 8 in 10 women) feel that their own sexual behavior keeps them at low risk. Despite this perception, few respondents felt that current AIDS information suggests that they should not worry about HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, about one-third of the sample agreed with the statement "I am afraid I will contract HIV."

Communication about HIV/AIDS. When asked about their friends specifically, almost two-thirds of respondents agreed with the statements which addressed discussion of AIDS on a regular basis and encouragement from friends to practice safe sex. A fewer number of women felt that similar communication behavior was true among women who have sex with women: approximately half agreed with the statement that "women who have sex with women talk about safe sex with their women sex partners."

Peer Norms. In general, few respondents felt that women who have sex with other women have changed their sexual behaviors because of HIV/AIDS or try to protect themselves from getting sexually-transmitted diseases from other women. This is supported by the fact that 70% of women agreed with the statement "Many of my friends have unsafe sex."

Other. Slightly more than two-thirds of women (67%) agreed with the statement "I feel adequately informed about a woman's risk for contracting HIV." Furthermore, more than eight in ten women agreed that they feel comfortable purchasing condoms and that if they need to purchase latex gloves or dental dams, they know where to find them.

Almost nine in ten women (87%) agreed with the statement "AIDS has greatly impacted me personally."

Finally, most women (87%) agreed that it is important for their health care providers to know their sexual orientation.

12. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Almost all women (98%) reported having sex with either a male or female or both in the past three years. Six in ten women (60%) reported that they had sex only with women in the past three years, 5% had sex only with men, and 33% had sex with both women and men.

Lesbians were more likely to have had sex only with women (73%), but 22% of them reported sex with both men and women, 3% with just men, and 1% no sex at all in the past three years. Seven in ten (71%) bisexual women reported having sex with both women and men, 12% with men only, another 12% with women only, and 4% no sex at all.

While no age differences existed among bisexual women regarding sex with men, young lesbians aged 18-24 years were more likely to have sex with men than their older counterparts (59% versus 18%).

Primary Relationships. Nearly three quarters (72%) of women have been in at least one primary sexual relationship with a woman in the past three years. Seven percent report a primary relationship with a man, 11% have had both women and men as primary partners, and 8% have had neither.

Among women who have been in a primary relationship with women, 60% report only one primary partner, 21% two, and 19% three or more in the past three years. Among women reporting a primary relationship with a man, 71% have had only one primary partner, 16% two, and 13% three or more in the past three years.

Seven in ten (70%) women say that they have talked with their primary partner about sexual practices they were or were not willing to engage in order to reduce their HIV risks.

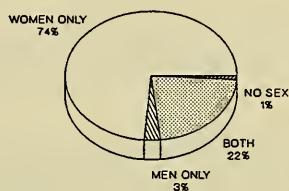
Other sexual relationships. Three-quarters (75%) of women reported that they have had sex with more than one individual in the past three years. About one-third (36%) have had sex with two to three women, 17% with four to six women, and 14% with over seven women in the past three years. Among women who have had multiple women sexual partners, 37% describe them all as primary partners.

Slightly more than one in ten (12%) women report that they have had sex with a woman they know or believe has used injection drugs.

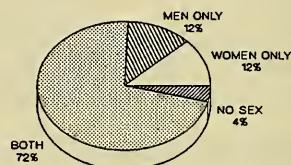
Seventeen percent reported that they had sex with one man in the past three years, another 12% with two to three men, and 7% with four or more. Among these women who have had sex with males, 21% report that their sexual partners have been primary partners.

Furthermore, 72% of them report that they have talked with their male sexual partners regarding sexual practices which may put them at risk for HIV.

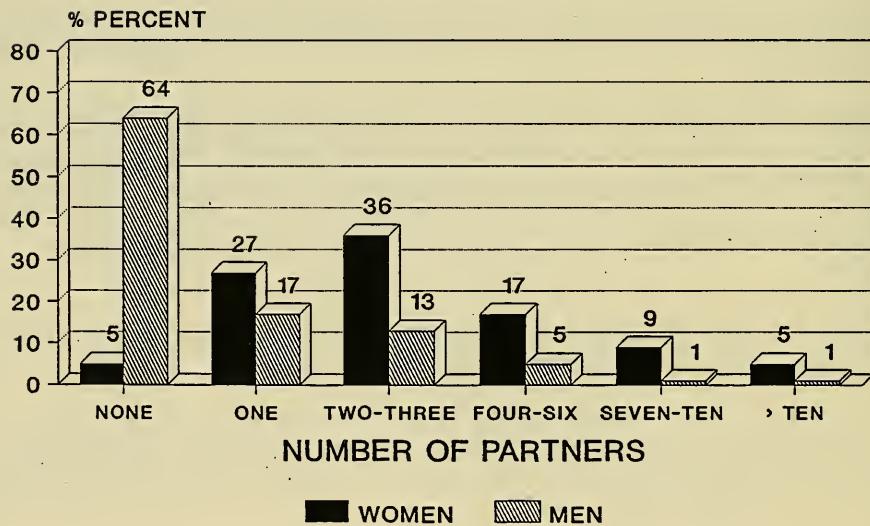
GENDER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS IN PAST 3 YRS
AMONG LESBIAN IDENTIFYING WOMEN



GENDER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS IN PAST 3 YRS
AMONG BISEXUAL IDENTIFYING WOMEN



NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS IN PAST THREE YEARS



Sex with High Risk Groups. Slightly more than one in ten (11%) women reported that they have had sex with a gay or bisexual man. This was far more common among bisexual women (34%) than lesbian women (5%). However, while no age differences existed among bisexual women, young lesbians aged 18 to 24 years were more likely to engage in sex with gay/bisexual men than older lesbians (19% versus 3%). Furthermore, while the differences did not attain statistical significance, slightly more African American and Latino women (17% and 14% respectively) reported this behavior more than Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islander women (11% and 7%).

Five percent of women reported that they have had sex with a man they know or believe has used injection drugs. This was more prevalent among bisexual women (14%) as opposed to lesbians (1.6%) as well as among young women aged 18 to 24 years-old (11%). Again, ethnic differences were not statistically significant, but similar to the pattern for sexual behavior with gay/bisexual men: African American and Latina women (8% among both groups) reported this behavior slightly more than Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islander women (4% and 2% respectively).

Condom Use. Women who reported having sex with men were asked how frequently their sexual partners used condoms. Almost half (47%) reported that they always use condoms, 37% said sometimes, 8% rarely, and 8% never. Young women were especially more likely not to always use condoms: 67% of 18 to 24 year-olds as opposed to 46% of older women .

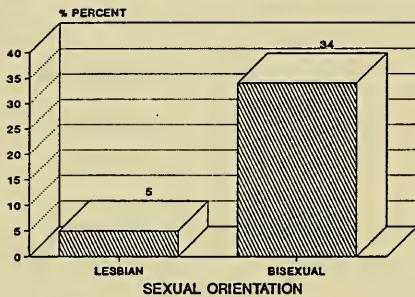
Differences between lesbian and bisexual women in terms of condom use approached significance. Self-identified lesbian women were more likely than bisexual women to never use condoms (12% versus 3%) but also more likely to always use them (53% versus 42%). In other words, lesbians appeared more decisive and consistent with their usage and non-usage than bisexual women.

Spermicidal and Contraceptive Use. The most commonly used spermicide or contraceptive among women having sex with men was nonoxynol-9 lubrication used by 43%, followed by the pill (24%). Other forms included Spermicidal foam (22%), a diaphragm (18%), cervical cap (1%), and an intrauterine device (IUD) (0.6%).

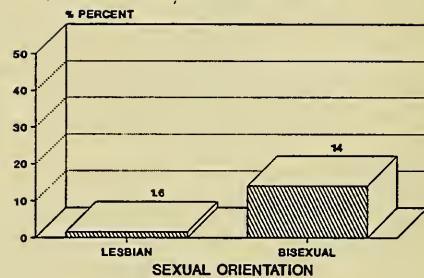
Specific Sexual Behaviors and Practices. Respondents were asked whether they engaged in specific sexual behaviors with their male and female primary and other sexual partners in the past three years. They were also asked how often they engaged in each behavior: never, just once, less than once a month, several times a month, once or twice a month, more than several times a week.

The most common sexual behaviors with female partners - both primary and secondary - were vaginal oral sex and fingers in the vagina. Vaginal oral sex during menstruation without a barrier, however, was more common among primary partners (45%) than secondary partners (17%). Several other behaviors were more common among primary than secondary partners: fingers in the vagina during menstruation without a barrier (61% versus 23%), fingers in the anus without a barrier (49% versus 29%), fisting in the vagina without a barrier (27%

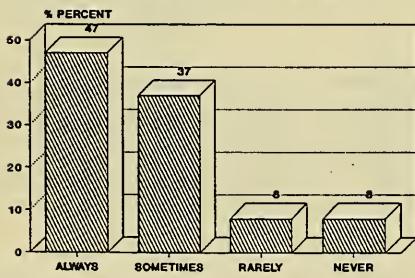
SEX WITH GAY/BISEXUAL MALE IN PAST 3 YRS



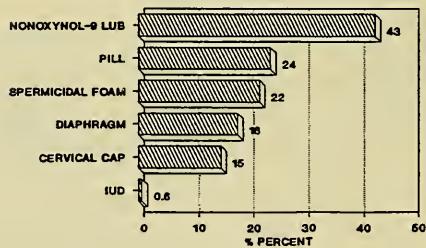
SEX WITH MALE INJECTION DRUG USER IN PAST THREE YEARS



CONDOM USE AMONG WOMEN HAVING SEX WITH MEN IN PAST THREE YEARS



SPERMICIDAL AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN PAST THREE YRS AMONG WOMEN HAVING SEX WITH MEN



versus 19%), rimming without a barrier (41% versus 19%), and dildos/sex toys in the vagina and/or anus without a barrier (54% versus 26%).

Usage of barriers (e.g. gloves, latex) with oral sex and fingers in the vagina/anus was consistently practiced by fewer women than the same behaviors without barriers. In fact, the most common sexual behavior with a barrier - fingers in the vagina - was practiced only by 35% of women with their primary partners and 38% of women with their secondary partners.

Among women with male sex partners, most have engaged in vaginal intercourse with condoms (86% with primary male partners and 85% with non-primary male partners) in the past three years. However, these percentages do not reflect consistent usage but only whether condoms have been used at least once in the past three years. Unprotected vaginal intercourse was also very common among these women: 70% among those with male primary partners and 43% among those with secondary partners.

Slightly over half (53%) of women with male primary partners report that they have engaged in oral sex and swallowed the semen of their partner. This behavior was also relatively high (26%) among women with secondary male partners. About one-quarter of women from both groups engaged in oral sex with a condom.

Unprotected anal sex was more common among women with their primary male partner than their secondary ones (21% versus 10%). Anal sex with a condom was practiced by almost one-quarter (24%) of women with a primary male partner and 15% of those with secondary partners.

Almost one third (30%) of women with primary male partners practiced rimming without a barrier (30%) compared to 12% among women with secondary partners.

Finally, sadomasochistic (S&M) activities were practiced by 26% of women with female primary partners, 50% of women with primary male partners, 18% of women with secondary female partners, and 18% of women with secondary male partners.

Use of Partner's Sex Toys. Respondents were asked whether they and their female sexual partners have used the same sex toy during one sexual encounter. Fifty-nine percent responded that they had. Of this group, 61% said that they or their partner washed the toy before the other used it.

Use of Substances during Sex. Seven in ten (70%) women said that they have been high, buzzed, or wired on alcohol or some other drug during sex in the past three years. This was most common among younger women 18 to 24 years-old (84%).

The most common substance was alcohol, used by 62% of women during sex, followed by marijuana (33%), MDA/ecstasy (8%), cocaine - not including crack

(8%), uppers such as speed or crystal (6%), LSD/psychedelics (4%), heroin (2%), and crack cocaine (1%).

Exchanging Sex for Money or Drugs. Three percent of the sample reported that they had exchanged sex for money or drugs in the past three years.

Impact of AIDS on Sexual Behavior. Utilizing a 1 to 10 scale where 1 means no impact and 10 means a great deal of impact, respondents were asked how much of an impact AIDS has had on their sexual behavior. The mean response was 6.0, with 17% of respondents reporting a "10" - reflecting a great deal of impact. Means were significantly different among women of different sexual orientations and ethnic groups: bisexual women reported a higher mean (6.7) than lesbian women (5.8), and African Americans and Latinas reported a higher impact (means = 6.9 and 6.6) than Asian/Pacific Islanders and Caucasians (both means = 5.8).

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH FEMALE PRIMARY PARTNERS
(72% OF SAMPLE)**

	<u>% Engaging in Behavior</u>
Vaginal oral sex	
without barrier	96
with barrier	24
without barrier during menstruation	45
with barrier during menstruation	13
Putting fingers in the vagina	
without gloves	96
with gloves	35
without gloves during menstruation	61
with gloves during menstruation	21
Putting fingers in the anus without gloves	49
Putting fingers in the anus with gloves	21
Fisting in the vagina without gloves	27
Fisting in the vagina with gloves	16
Fisting in the anus without gloves	3
Fisting in the anus with gloves	2
Rimming without barrier	41
Rimming with barrier	11
Dildos/sex toys in the vagina and/or anus without barrier	54
Dildos/sex toys in the vagina and/or anus with barrier	42
SM activities	26

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH MALE PRIMARY PARTNERS
(7% OF SAMPLE)

	<u>% Engaging in Behavior</u>
Vaginal intercourse without condom	70
Vaginal intercourse with condom	86
Vaginal oral sex without barrier	85
Vaginal oral sex with barrier	12
Oral sex and swallowing of partner's semen	53
Oral sex without condoms/no swallowing of partner's semen	73
Oral sex with condom	27
Anal sex without condom	21
Anal sex with condom	24
Rimming without barrier	30
Rimming with barrier	5
SM activities	50

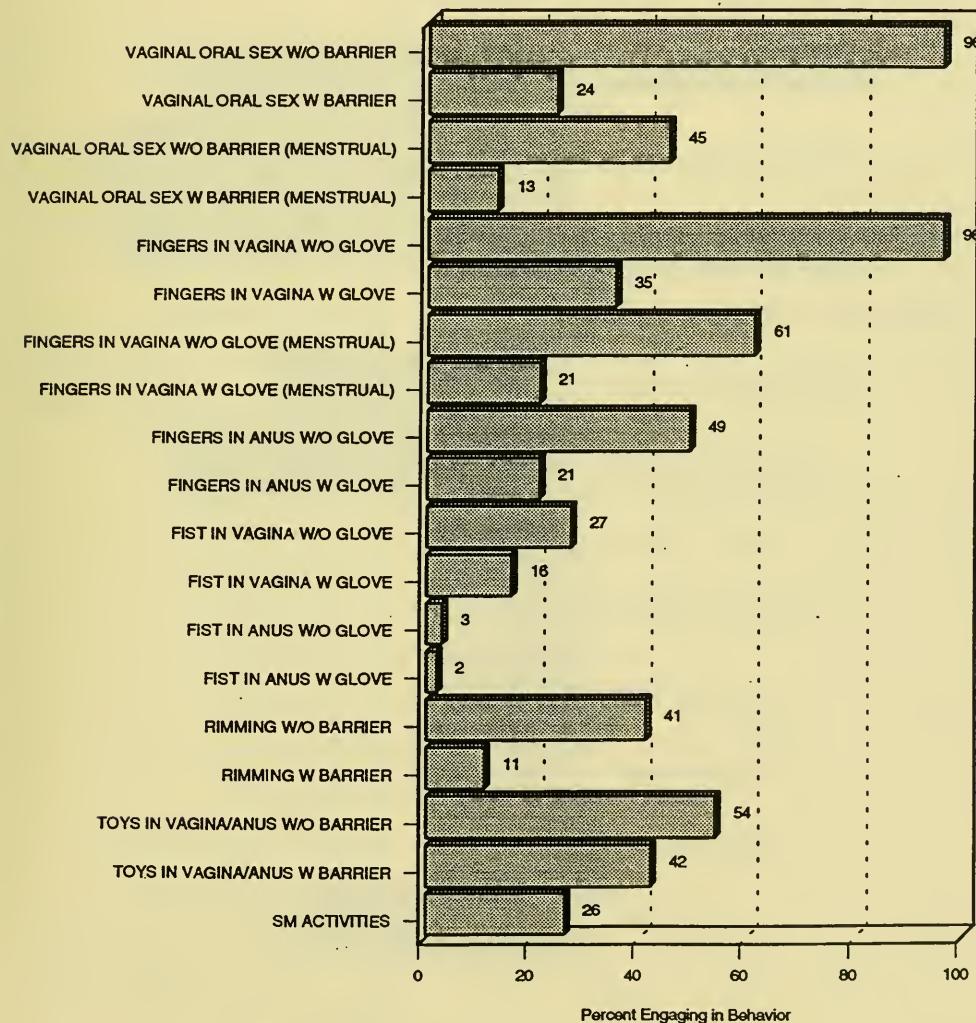
**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH NON-PRIMARY FEMALE PARTNERS
(67% OF SAMPLE)**

	<u>% Engaging in Behavior</u>
Vaginal oral sex	
without barrier	81
with barrier	29
without barrier during menstruation	17
with barrier during menstruation	10
Putting fingers in the vagina	
without gloves	83
with gloves	38
without gloves during menstruation	23
with gloves during menstruation	19
Putting fingers in the anus without gloves	29
Putting fingers in the anus with gloves	19
Fisting in the vagina without gloves	19
Fisting in the vagina with gloves	22
Fisting in the anus without gloves	2
Fisting in the anus with gloves	3
Rimming without barrier	19
Rimming with barrier	10
Dildos/sex toys in the vagina and/or anus without barrier	26
Dildos/sex toys in the vagina and/or anus with barrier	36
SM activities	18

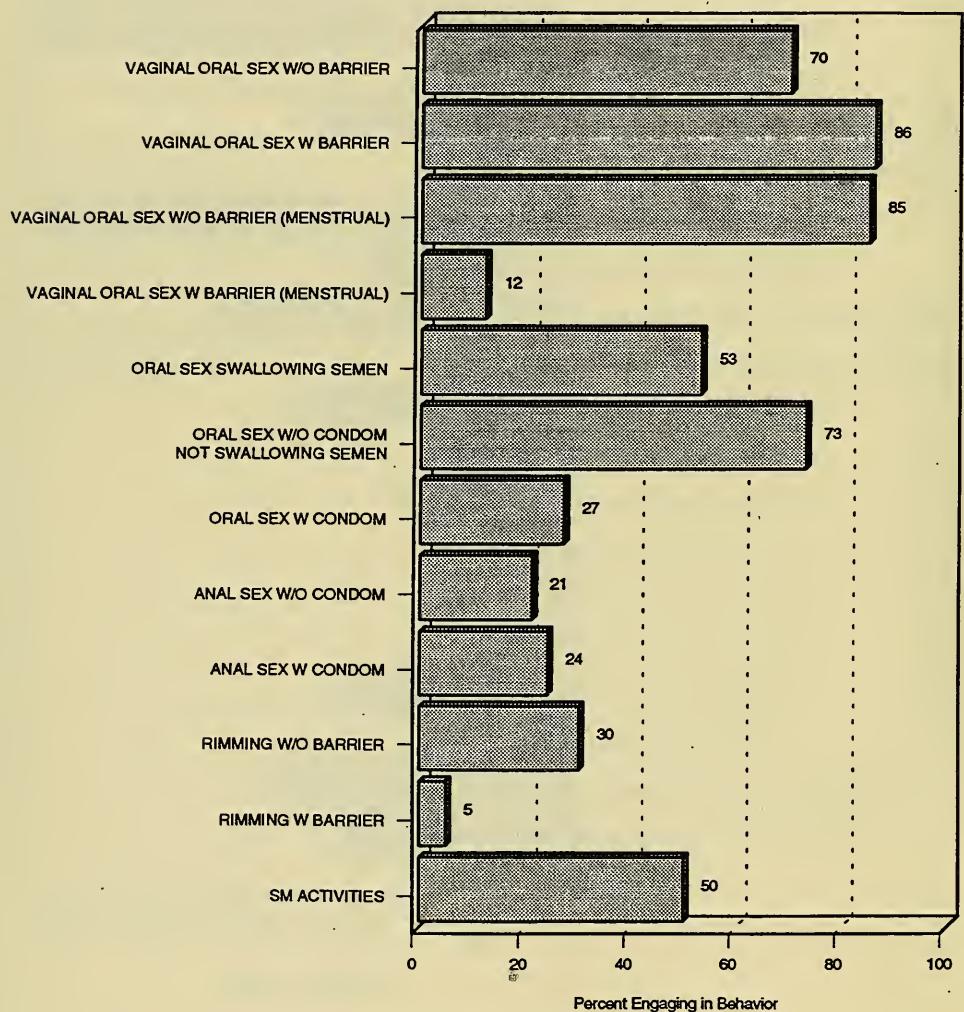
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH NON-PRIMARY MALE PARTNERS
(19% OF SAMPLE)

	<u>% Engaging in Behavior</u>
Vaginal intercourse without condom	43
Vaginal intercourse with condom	85
Vaginal oral sex without barrier	72
Vaginal oral sex with barrier	12
Oral sex and swallowing of partner's semen	26
Oral sex without condoms/no swallowing of partner's semen	49
Oral sex with condom	25
Anal sex without condom	10
Anal sex with condom	15
Rimming without barrier	12
Rimming with barrier	4
SM activities	18

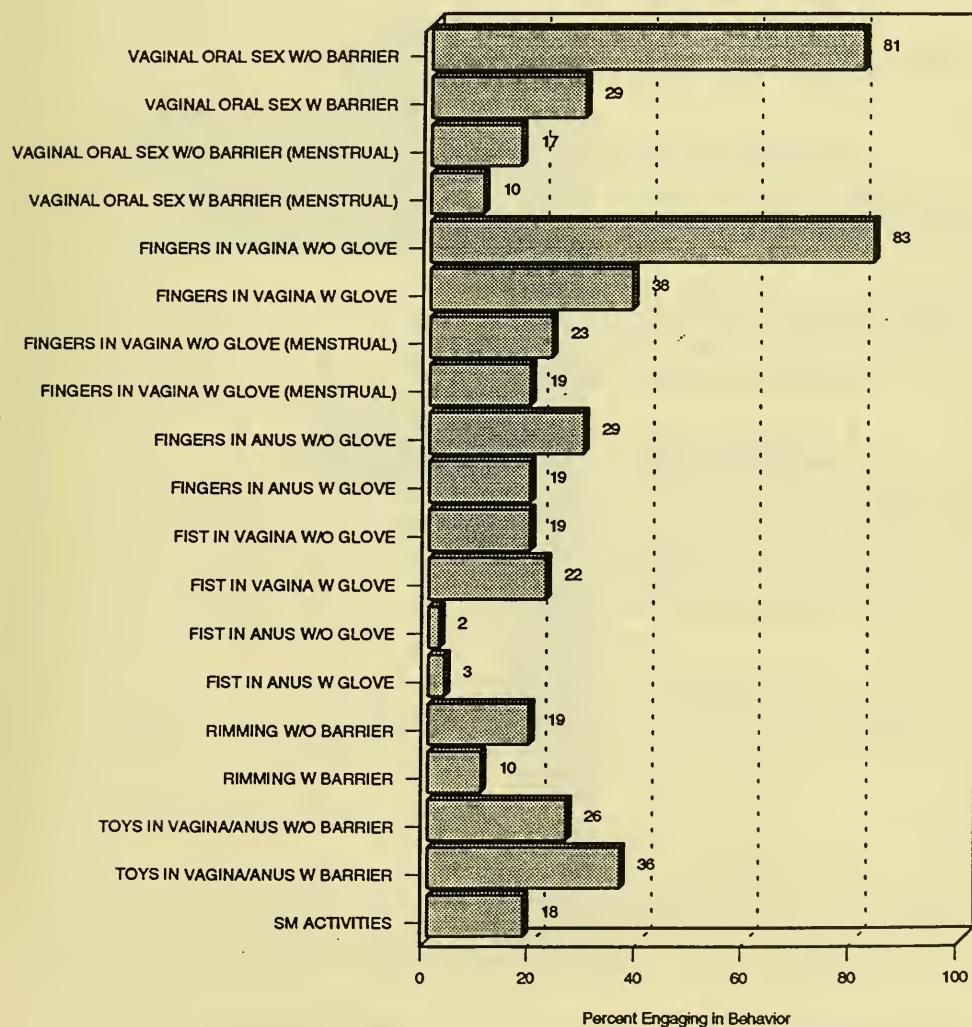
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH FEMALE PRIMARY PARTNERS
(72% OF SAMPLE)



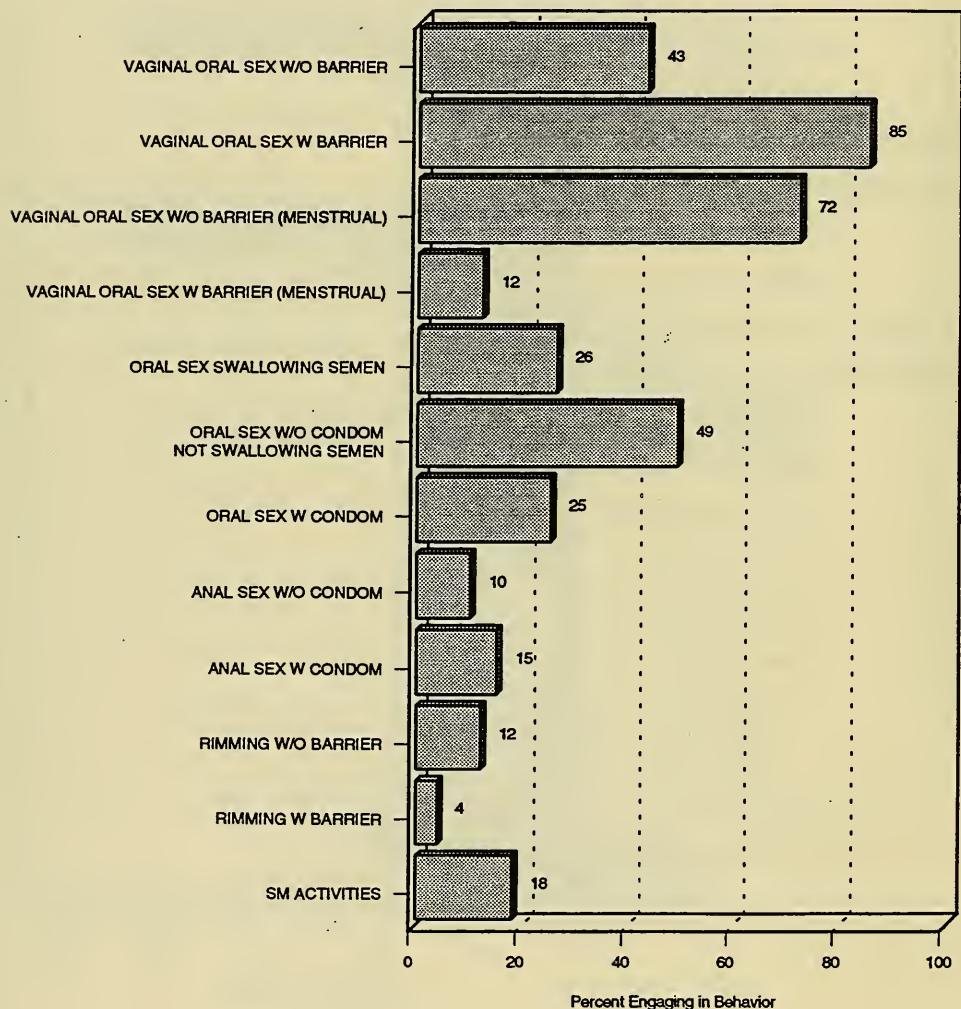
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS AMONG WOMEN WITH MALE PRIMARY PARTNERS (7% OF SAMPLE)



SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS AMONG WOMEN WITH NON-PRIMARY FEMALE PARTNERS (67% OF SAMPLE)



SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN PAST THREE YEARS
AMONG WOMEN WITH NON-PRIMARY MALE PARTNERS
(19% OF SAMPLE)



Prevention Services for Women

Prevention programs targeting women account for approximately 27% of the HIV prevention budget of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) AIDS Office.¹ These programs provide a variety of services including HIV antibody counseling and testing, mass media campaigns, community events, small group sessions, individual counseling and education, and street outreach. Programs are based in schools, clinics, jails, housing projects and community sites.

Six percent of HIV prevention programs targeting women emphasize services to lesbian and bisexual women.² These programs include Lyon-Martin Women's Clinic, Planned Parenthood, the IRIS Project, the Women's Needs Center and Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC).

Various funding resources support these programs, including the City and County of San Francisco, California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

The results of the HIV seroprevalence survey and the health behaviors survey suggest that HIV prevention providers which target women should better understand and address the needs of lesbian and bisexual women. In particular, if providers assume that lesbians are not engaging in sex with men - especially with gay men and injection drug using men - they will be overlooking risk behaviors which these surveys found to be more common than most providers and observers had suspected.

The SFDPH AIDS Office is currently evaluating the range of HIV prevention programs for women to determine if changes need to be made to address these findings or whether new programs need to be created.

HIV/AIDS Care Services for Women

Women with HIV/AIDS are served by a continuum of services in San Francisco including primary care, child care, substance abuse services, case management, family services, and emotional and practical support. Women-specific services funded by the SFDPH AIDS Office total \$1,500,000.

¹This percentage includes \$2.6m in SFDPH AIDS Office funding for women and \$279,952 in funding provided directly to community based organizations.

² Percentage based on providers who report >25% services to lesbian and bisexual women.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office 1992
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

Survey Number: _____

Interviewer Code: _____

Date: 1 / 1

We are ready to begin the interview. All of your answers are confidential, and at no time will you be associated with any answers you give. If you do not want to answer a certain question or feel uncomfortable, we can move on to the next question. However, we would really appreciate your answering all of the questions that you can.

First, I need to ask you a few background questions.

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. "Are you currently a San Francisco resident?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes

2= No

(IF NO, THANK AND TERMINATE INTERVIEW)

2. "What is your zip code?" CODE: _____

3. "What is your age?" _____ years

CODE: _____

(If YOUNGER THAN 18, THANK AND TERMINATE INTERVIEW)

4. "What is your cultural and/or ethnic background?" (DO NOT READ LIST)

CODE: _____

1= Caucasian

2= African American

3= Latina (if other specify): _____

4= Pacific Islander (specify): _____

5= Chinese

6= Japanese

7= Filipina

8= Native American

9= Other Specify: _____

5. "Are you currently employed?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes, full time

2= Yes, part time

3= No

4= Retired

9= Refused/not answered

6. "What is your occupation?" _____ CODE: _____

1= professional/technical
2= managers/officials/proprietors
3= sales/clerical workers
4= craft workers/formen
5= service workers/operators
6= laborers/agricultural workers
7= other specify _____
8= unemployed
9= retired
10= refused/no answer

CODE:

7. "How many years of school have you completed?" CODE:

1. less than 8	5. some college
2. 8 years	6. college degree
3. some high school	7. some graduate professional school
4. 4 years of high school	8. graduate professional degree

CODE:

8. "Are you currently a student?" CODE:

1= Yes, full time
2= Yes, part time
3= No
9= Refused/Not answered

CODE:

9. "What was your yearly income, before taxes, for the last year?"
(READ LIST)

1= less than \$10,000
2= \$10,000-\$19,999
3= \$20,000-\$29,999
4= \$30,000-\$39,999
5= \$40,000-\$49,999
6= \$50,000-or more
9= Refused/Not answered

CODE:

10. "Do you get aid now or have you ever received aid in the past 3 years from any of the following: (READ LIST) (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No)

CODE:

- a. welfare _____
- b. AFDC _____
- c. food stamps _____
- d. SSI _____
- e. unemployment _____
- f. disability _____
- g. medical/medicare _____
- h. other: _____

11. "What is your current living situation?" (READ LIST)

CODE: _____

- 1= Rent
- 2= Own Home
- 3= Homeless
- 4= Hotel
- 5= Residential program (drug/alcohol)
- 6= Residential program (HIV related)
- 7= Other specify: _____
- 9= Refused/not answered

12. "Who do you live with?"
(READ LIST)

CODE: _____

- 1= alone
- 2= lover/partner
- 3= roommates/friends
- 4= family/relatives
- 5= Other: _____
- 9= Refused/not answered

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about health care.

B. HEALTH CARE

13. "Have you ever had a pap smear?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)
- 3= Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)
- 9= Refused/Not answered (SKIP TO QUESTION 15)

14. "When was your last pap smear?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Less than 1 year
- 2= 1 year ago
- 3= 2-3 years ago
- 4= 4-5 years ago
- 5= 6-10 years ago
- 6= More than 10 years ago

15. "Have you ever examined your breasts for lumps?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 17)
- 9= Refused/not answered

16. "How often do you self examine your breasts for lumps?" CODE: _____

- 1. every month
- 2. once every few months
- 3. about once a year
- 4. Less than once per year
- 9. Refused/not answered

17. "When was the last time a health care provider examined your breasts?" CODE: _____

1= Less than one month ago
2= 2-4 months ago
3= 5-6 months ago
4= 7-12 months ago
5= 1-2 years ago
6= More than 2 years ago
7= Never (SKIP TO QUESTION 19)
9= Refused/not answered

18. "How often does your health care provider examine your breasts for lumps?" CODE: _____

1= once every few months
2= about once a year
3= less than once a year
4= refused/not answered

19. "Have you ever had a mammogram screening for your breasts?" CODE: _____

1= Yes
2= No
9= Refused/not answered

19a. IF YES: Date of last screening _____ / _____
month year

20. "Have you ever had a blood transfusion?" CODE: _____

1= Yes
2= No

20a. IF YES: Date of last transfusion: _____ / _____
month year

21. "Have you ever been pregnant?" CODE: _____

1= Yes
2= No

22. "Have you had children (given birth) or adopted?" CODE: _____

1= Yes, given birth
2= adopted
3= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 24)

23. "How many children do you have?" _____ # of children CODE: _____

"Which of the following methods did you use to have children?
(READ LIST UNDER QUESTION 24 AND CODE UNDER METHODS USED)

24. "Are you considering parenting now or in the future? Which of the methods are you considering?" (READ LIST AND CODE UNDER METHODS CONSIDERING) (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No; 9. Don't know)

	<u>Used</u>	<u>Considering</u>
(CONSIDERING=CODE: 1=Yes/2.No/9. Don't know)		h. _____
insemination by a known donor	a. _____	i. _____
insemination by an unknown donor	b. _____	j. _____
insemination through a sperm bank or private practitioner	c. _____	k. _____
having sex with a man	d. _____	l. _____
adoption	e. _____	m. _____
co-parenting with a woman	f. _____	n. _____
co-parenting with a man	g. _____	o. _____

25. "Have you in the past 3 years or do you currently have any of the following health conditions?" (READ THE LIST) (Code: 1. Yes; 2. No; 9. Don't know)

CODE:

a. diabetes	_____
b. weight concerns/issues	_____
c. kidney or urinary problems	_____
d. hepatitis A	_____
e. hepatitis B	_____
f. TB: date: _____ / month year	_____
g. Cancer: what kind/type: _____	_____
h. infertility	_____
i. lumps or growths in your breast	_____
j. lumps or growth around your vagina	_____
k. rashes, sores around your vagina	_____
l. very bad cramps during your period	_____
m. heavy or unusual bleeding during your period	_____
n. periods irregular or too often	_____
o. premenstrual syndrome (PMS)°	_____
p. menopause (change of life)	_____
q. CFIDS (chronic fatigue immune dysfunction syndrome)	_____

26. "Have you in the past or do you currently have a disability?"
CODE: _____

1= Yes Specify: _____
2= No

27. "Have you ever had a screening for sexually transmitted diseases?
CODE: _____

1= Yes, please specify diagnosis: _____
2= No

28. "To your knowledge, have you ever had any of the following gynecological conditions? If you don't know whether you've had a certain condition, please feel free to say so." (READ EACH CONDITION AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN) (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No; 9. Don't know)

CODE:

- a. vaginal yeast infection _____
- b. trichomonas _____
- c. gonorrhea (clap) _____
- d. chlamydia _____
- e. PID/infection in your tubes _____
- f. syphilis _____
- g. herpes, anal or vaginal _____
- h. genital warts, anal or vaginal _____
- i. gardnerella/non specific vaginitis _____

29. "What level of risk do you feel you have for getting sexually transmitted diseases?" (READ LIST)

CODE: _____

- 1= no risk
- 2= a little risk
- 3= moderate risk
- 4= high risk
- 9= refused/no answer

30. "Why do you feel this way? _____

30a. "If you wanted to educate yourself about sexually transmitted diseases, where would you go for that information?"

Specify: _____

31. "In the past 3 years when you had a health problem, did you ever use the following:" (READ LIST) (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No)

Past 3 years

- 1. private doctor's office _____
- 2. community clinic (Westside, Haight) _____
- 3. women's health clinic _____
- 4. public health clinic (Hlt Ctr 1, 2, 3, Tom Waddell) _____
- 5. college/student health clinic _____
- 6. hospital emergency room _____
- 7. HMO hospital based clinic _____

32. "When you have a health problem, which of the above do you use most often?" (Code one of the above)

CODE: _____

33. "In the past 3 years have you seen any of the following for health care:" (READ LIST) (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No; 9. Don't know)

CODE:

- a. medical doctor _____
- b. nurse/NP/physician assistant _____
- c. chiropractor _____
- d. accupunturist _____
- e. nutrition counselor _____
- f. Any others? Specify: _____

34. "Do you know about the following clinics/services focusing on the specific health needs of women?" (READ LIST) Which have you used in the past three years? (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No; 9. Don't know)

aware used in 3 years

Lyon-Martin clinic	a. _____	f. _____
Women's Needs Ctr.	b. _____	g. _____
Planned Parenthood	c. _____	h. _____
IRIS Project/Women's Institute	d. _____	i. _____
Operation Concern	e. _____	j. _____

Any others? specify: _____

35. "Do you currently have health insurance?"

CODE: _____

1=Yes

2=No (SKIP TO QUESTION 38)

36. "What type of health insurance or coverage do you have?" CODE: _____

- 1= HMO or preferred provider/pre-paid plan such as Aetna
Kaiser, Bridgeway, Qual-Med.
- 2= Private health insurance (Blue Cross, Prudential, etc.)
- 3= Medical or Medicare
- 4= Student health insurance
- 5= VA, CHAMPUS, or military
- 6= other: please specify:
- 7= declines
- 8= don't know
- 9= Refused/no answer

37. "Who pays for your health insurance?"

CODE: _____

(if person claims self and employer, then code employer)

- 1= you
- 2= employer
- 3= other person, company, or organization
- 7= declines
- 8= Don't know/na
- 9= Refused/no answer

C. EXPOSURE TO HIV PREVENTION

38. "In the last year, have you seen or heard any message or advertisement on radio, TV, newspapers, or other media such as brochures having to do with AIDS prevention?"

Code: _____

- 1=Yes
- 2=No (SKIP TO QUESTION 41)
- 3=Not sure/Don't Know
- 9=Refused/Not answered

39. "Where specifically did you see or hear these messages having to do with AIDS prevention?" (ACCEPT ALL THAT RESPONDENT MENTIONS AND PROBE THOROUGHLY WITH "IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?")

40. "What did you see or hear?" (PROBE THOROUGHLY FOR CLARITY AND FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES: What did you learn from the ad? What was the message of the ad?)

41. "Have you seen or heard any AIDS prevention which talks about sex between women?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 43)
- 9= Refused/No answer

42. "What was the message (PROBE FOR CLARITY)?"

D. HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING QUESTIONS

43. "Have you had an HIV antibody test since 1985?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes (SKIP TO QUESTION 45)
- 2= No

43a. Last date tested: _____ / _____
month year

44. "Why have you not had an HIV antibody test?" (DO NOT READ LIST ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

CODE: _____

- 1= "don't have sex"
- 2= "in a monogamous relationship"
- 3= "not at risk"
- 4= "don't want to know my HIV status"
- 5= confidentiality issues
- 6= Other, specify: _____

(SKIP TO QUESTION 50)

45. "Where did you have your last HIV antibody test done?" CODE: _____

- 1= Doctor's office
- 2= Anonymous testing site
- 3= Women's health clinic
- 4= Blood donation
- 5= Hospital
- 6= Drug treatment center
- 7= Research project
- 8= Other, specify: _____

46. "Did you receive pre and post test counseling?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 48)

47. "On a scale from 1 - 5, (1 meaning very uncomfortable and 5 meaning very comfortable) how comfortable were you with the pre/post test counseling you received?"

CODE: _____

48. "How many times have you had an HIV antibody test?"

_____ times

49. "What were the results of your last HIV antibody test?" CODE: _____

- 1= Positive (SKIP TO QUESTION 51)
- 2= Negative
- 3= Indeterminate
- 9= refused/no answer

50. "What is the likelihood of your having an HIV antibody test in the future?" (READ LIST)

- 1= very likely
- 2= somewhat likely
- 3= somewhat unlikely
- 4= very unlikely
- 9= refused/no answer

CODE: _____

51. "Do you personally know, or have you known a woman who is HIV infected or who has AIDS?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/no answer

52. "Do you personally know a woman who has died of AIDS?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/no answer

E. MENTAL HEALTH

53. "Have you experienced the following in the past or have any of these issues bothered you in the last 3 years?" (READ THE LIST)
(Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No)

PAST:

3 Year (since 89)

- a. discrimination on the job _____
- b. harassment on the job _____
- c. sadness/depression _____
- d. anxiety/stress _____
- e. physical abuse/battering _____
- f. emotional abuse _____
- g. suicidal thoughts _____
- h. childhood sexual abuse/
molestation _____

54. "Have you ever discussed issues regarding your sexual orientation
in a counseling or therapy session(s)?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes

2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 56)

55. "When you received counseling did you feel they were/are sensitive
to lesbian and bisexual issues/concerns?"

(Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No)

CODE: _____

56. "Do you know of any counseling programs for lesbians and bisexual
women?" (Codes: 1. Yes; 2. No)

CODE: _____

56a. IF YES, please specify: _____

F. SUBSTANCE USE

Now I'd like to ask you some questions regarding different types of
substances you may or may not use.

57. "Have you ever regularly smoked cigarettes?"

CODE: _____

1=Yes

2=No (SKIP TO QUESTION 60)

9=refused/no answer

58. "Do you smoke cigarettes now?"

CODE: _____

1=Yes

2=No (SKIP TO QUESTION 60)

9=refused/no answer

59. "How many cigarettes do you smoke a day, on the average?"

CODE: _____

1= 5 or less

2= More than 5 but less than a pack

3= 1 pack or more

9= refused/no answer

60. "Do you live with a smoker(s)?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes

2= No

9= refused/no answer

61. "If you drink alcohol, on the average, how often do you drink?"
(READ LIST)

CODE: _____

1= every day

2= 2-3 times per week

3= once a week

4= 2-3 times a month

5= once a month

6= less than monthly

7= don't drink (SKIP TO QUESTION 63)

9= refused/no answer

62. "How many drinks do you typically have at a time?"
(READ LIST)

CODE: _____

1= 1 drinks

2= 2-3 drinks

3= 4-5 drinks

4= 6 or more drinks

9= refused/no answer

63. "Have you ever or do you currently consider yourself to be in recovery for alcohol use?"

CODE: _____

1= no

2= formerly in recovery

3= currently in recovery

9= refused/no answer

64. "Which of the following, if any, substances have you used in the past 3 years?" (READ LIST)

CODE: _____

1= Marijuana or hashish

CODE: _____

2= Cocaine (not including Crack)

CODE: _____

3= Crack cocaine/rock

CODE: _____

4= MDA or ecstasy

CODE: _____

5= LSD or psychedelics

CODE: _____

6= Downers like quaaludes, valium or tranquilizers

CODE: _____

7= Uppers like speed or crystal

CODE: _____

8= heroin

CODE: _____

9= haven't used drugs in the past 3 years

CODE: _____

99= refused/not answered

65. "Have you ever or do you currently consider yourself in recovery for drug use?"

CODE: _____

1= no

CODE: _____

2= formerly in recovery

CODE: _____

3= currently in recovery

CODE: _____

9= refused/no answer

66. "Have you ever been in a alcohol and/or drug formal treatment (residential or out patient) program?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes, alcohol treatment
- 2= Yes, drug treatment
- 3= Both
- 4= Neither
- 9= Refused/ no answer

67. "In the past three years, have you injected drugs into your veins or under your skin with a needle? This could include steroids but not drugs prescribed by a doctor."

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes (WHAT DID YOU INJECT? _____)
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 72)
- 9= refused/not answered

68. "In the past 12 months, have you shared your needles (rigs) or works with other people, including your partner?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/not answered

69. "Do you clean your needles (rigs) with bleach?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= refused/not answered

70. "Have you or someone else ever exchanged your needles (syringes) at a needle exchange program?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 72)
- 9= refused/not answered

71. "How often do you or someone else exchange your needles (syringes) at the needle exchange program?"

CODE: _____

- 1= always
- 2= sometimes
- 3= never
- 9= refused/not answered

G. SEXUAL ATTITUDES

"For the next set of statements, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree." (PROVIDE CARD TO RESPONDENT AND WRITE APPROPRIATE CODE IN BLANK)

(ROTATE SERIES 72-87)

72. "Women who have sex with women generally protect themselves from getting sexually-transmitted diseases from other women." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

73. "Sex between women is a low risk for contracting HIV." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

74. "My sexual behavior keeps me at low risk for contracting HIV." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

75. "Most women who have sex with women have changed their behavior to reduce their chances of contracting HIV." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

76. "I am afraid I will contract HIV." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

77. "My women friends discuss AIDS on a regular basis." CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

78. "My sexual behavior keeps me at low risk for contracting sexually transmitted diseases other than HIV."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

79. "I feel adequately informed about a woman's risk for contracting HIV."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

80. "Women who have sex with women talk about safe sex with their women sex partners."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

81. "If I need condoms, I feel comfortable purchasing them."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

82. "If I need latex gloves or dental dams, I know where to find them."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

83. "The AIDS epidemic has greatly impacted me personally."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

84. "The AIDS information that I've read or heard about suggests to me that I should not worry about AIDS or HIV."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

85. "My friends encourage me to practice safe sex."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

86. "Many of my women friends have unsafe sex."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

87. "It is important to me that my health care providers know my sexual orientation."

CODE: _____

1= strongly agree
2= somewhat agree
3= somewhat disagree
4= strongly disagree
9= refused/not answered

H. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR QUESTIONS

"Now I would like to ask you a group of questions regarding your sexual behavior.

88. "Have you had sex with anyone, male or female, in the past 3 years?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes
2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 110, PAGE 23)
9= Refused/ no answer

89. "In the last three years, have you had a primary sexual partner and was this partner a woman, a man, or have you had both?"

CODE: _____

1= Have/had primary female sexual partner, specify # _____
2= Have/had primary male sexual partner, specify # _____
3= Both, specify # male _____ and # female _____
4= Have/had no primary sexual partner (SKIP TO QUESTION 91)
9= Refused/No answer

90. "Have you ever talked with your primary (Insert: FEMALE/MALE) partner about the sexual practices you were or were not willing to engage in, in order to reduce the risk of HIV infection?"

CODE: _____

- 1=Yes, have talked
- 2=No, have not talked
- 3=No need to (volunteer only)
- 9=Refused/no answer

91. "Have you had sex with more than one person within the past three years?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/no answer

92. "How many women in total have you had sex with in the past three years?"

CODE: _____

- 1= none (SKIP TO QUESTION 95)
- 2= 1
- 3= 2-3
- 4= 4-6
- 5= 7-10
- 6= over 10
- 9= Refused/no answer

92a. "Have all of these female sexual partners been primary partners?"

- 1= Yes (SKIP TO QUESTION 94)
- 2= No

CODE: _____

93. "Have you ever talked with your (other) female partners about the sexual practices you were or were not willing to engage in, in order to reduce the risk of HIV infection?"

CODE: _____

- 1=Yes, have talked
- 2=No, have not talked
- 3=No need to (volunteer only)
- 9=Refused/no answer

94. "In the past three years, have you had sex with a woman you know or believe has used injection drugs?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/no answer

95. "In the past three years how many men have you had sex with?"

CODE: _____

- 1= none (SKIP TO QUESTION 101, page 18)
- 2= 1
- 3= 2-3
- 4= 4-6
- 5= 7-10
- 6= over 10
- 9= Refused/no answer

NOTE: IF NO SEX WITH MEN AND WOMEN, SKIP TO QUESTION 110 PAGE 21)

95a. "Have all of these male sexual partners been primary partners?"

1= Yes (SKIP TO QUESTION 97)

CODE: _____

2= No

96. "Have you ever talked with your (other) male partners about the sexual practices you were or were not willing to engage in, in order to reduce the risk of HIV infection?"

CODE: _____

1=Yes, have talked

2=No, have not talked

3=No need to (volunteer only)

9=Refused/no answer

97. "In the past three years, have you had sex with a man you know or believe has used injection drugs?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes

2= No

3= Don't know/Not sure

9= Refused/no answer

98. "In the past three years have you had sex with a gay or bisexual man, that is a man who has sex with other men?"

CODE: _____

1= Yes

2= No

3= Don't know/Not sure

9= Refused/No answer

99. "When you have had sexual intercourse with men, how often do they use condoms?" (READ LIST)

CODE: _____

1= Always

2= Sometimes

3= Rarely

4= Never

9= Refused/No Answer

100. "In the past three years when having sex with men, did you use any of the following?" (READ AND CIRCLE IF USED) (Code: 1. Yes; 2. No)

CODE:

a. Nonoxynol-9 lube

b. pill

c. IUD

d. Diaphragm

e. Cervical cap

f. Spermicidal foam

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A PRIMARY PARTNER -
REFER TO QUESTION 89

"Many people have different kinds of sexual contacts with their partners. I'd like to read you a list of sexual practices, and for each, I'd like you to tell me approximately how often you engaged in the following behaviors with any primary partner in the past three years. The time categories are 1) never 2) Just once 3) Less than once a month 4) Several times a month 5) Once or twice a week 6) More than several times a week. (SHOW RESPONDENT CARD)

FOR WOMEN WITH FEMALE PRIMARY PARTNERS:

CODES:

1=never 2=just once 3-less than once a month

4=several times a month 5=Once or twice a week 6=More than several times a week

101. "How often did you and your partner(s) engage in:

- a. Vaginal oral sex without the use of barriers (saran wrap, dental dams, etc) CODE: _____
- b. Vaginal oral sex with the use of barriers CODE: _____
- c. Vaginal oral sex without the use of barriers during menstruation (with or without a tampon) CODE: _____
- d. Vaginal oral sex with the use of barriers during menstruation (with or without a tampon) CODE: _____
- e. Putting fingers in the vagina without gloves CODE: _____
- f. Putting fingers in the vagina with gloves CODE: _____
- g. Putting fingers in the vagina without gloves during menstruation CODE: _____
- h. Putting fingers in the vagina with gloves during menstruation CODE: _____
- i. Putting fingers in the anus (butt) without gloves CODE: _____
- j. Putting fingers in the anus (butt) with gloves CODE: _____
- k. Fisting in the vagina without gloves CODE: _____
- l. Fisting in the vagina with gloves CODE: _____
- m. Fisting in the anus (butt) without gloves CODE: _____
- n. Fisting in the anus (butt) with gloves CODE: _____
- o. Rimming without the use of barriers (licking or putting tongue in/on anus) CODE: _____

p. Rimming with the use of barriers (licking or putting tongue in/on anus)

CODE: _____

q. Usage of dildos or sex toys in the vagina and/or anus without a barrier

CODE: _____

r. Usage of dildos or sex toys in the vagina and/or anus with a barrier

CODE: _____

Are there any other sexual practices you engage in that I haven't mentioned such as S/M activities? Please specify: _____

FOR WOMEN WITH MALE PRIMARY PARTNERS:

CODES:

1=never

2=just once

3=less than once a month

4=several times a month

5=Once or twice a week

6=More than several times a week

102. "How often did you and your partner engage in:

a. Vaginal intercourse without condoms

CODE: _____

b. Vaginal intercourse with condoms

CODE: _____

c. Vaginal oral sex without the use of barriers
(saran wrap, dental dams, etc.)

CODE: _____

d. Vaginal oral sex with the use of a barriers
(saran wrap, dental dams, etc.)

CODE: _____

e. Oral sex without the use of condoms and swallowing
your partners semen

CODE: _____

f. Oral sex without the use of condoms and did not
swallow your partners semen

CODE: _____

g. Oral sex with condoms

CODE: _____

h. Anal sex without condoms
(your partner fucking you in the anus/butt)

CODE: _____

i. Anal sex with condoms
(your partner fucking you in the anus/butt)

CODE: _____

j. rimming without the use of barriers
(licking or putting tongue in/on anus)

CODE: _____

k. rimming with the use of barriers
(licking or putting tongue in/on anus)

CODE: _____

Are there any other sexual practices you engage in that I haven't mentioned such as S/M activities? Please specify: _____

(ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION TO INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OUTSIDE OF PRIMARY RELATIONSHIP)

"Now I would like to ask you about your sexual activities with people other than your primary partner. I'd like to read you a list of sexual practices, and for each, I'd like you to tell me approximately how many times in the past three years you have done each of them. The time categories are 1) never 2) Just once 3) Less than once a month 4) Several times a month 5) Once or twice a week 6) More than several times a week. (SHOW RESPONDENT CARD)

FOR WOMEN WITH FEMALE SEXUAL PARTNERS:

CODES:

1=never 2=just once 3=less than once a month

4=several times a month 5=Once or twice a week 6=More than several times a week

103. "How often did you and your partner(s) engage in":

a. Vaginal oral sex without the use of barriers
(saran wrap, dental dams, etc.)

CODE: _____

b. Vaginal oral sex with the use of barriers

CODE: _____

c. Vaginal oral sex without the use of barriers
during menstruation (with or without a tampon)

CODE: _____

d. Vaginal oral sex with the use of barriers
during menstruation (with or without a tampon)

CODE: _____

e. Putting fingers in the vagina without gloves

CODE: _____

f. Putting fingers in the vagina with gloves

CODE: _____

g. Putting fingers in the vagina without gloves
during menstruation

CODE: _____

h. Putting fingers in the vagina with gloves
during menstruation

CODE: _____

i. Putting fingers in the anus (butt) without gloves

CODE: _____

j. Putting fingers in the anus (butt) with gloves

CODE: _____

k. Fisting in the vagina without gloves CODE: _____

l. Fisting in the vagina with gloves CODE: _____

m. Fisting in the anus (butt) without gloves CODE: _____

n. Fisting in the anus (butt) with gloves CODE: _____

o. Rimming without the use of barriers (licking or putting tongue in/on anus) CODE: _____

p. Rimming with the use of barriers (licking or putting tongue in/on anus) CODE: _____

q. Usage of dildos or sex toys in the vagina and/or anus without the use of barriers CODE: _____

r. Usage of dildos or sex toys in the vagina and/or anus with the use of barriers CODE: _____

Are there any other sexual activities you engage in that I haven't mentioned such as S/M activities? Please specify: _____

FOR WOMEN WITH MALE SEXUAL PARTNERS:

"The following refer only to sex with male partners."

CODES:

1=never
2=just once
3=less than once a month
4=several times a month
5=Once or twice a week
6=More than several times a week

104. "How often did you and your partner engage in:

a. Vaginal intercourse without condoms CODE: _____

b. Vaginal intercourse with condoms CODE: _____

c. Vaginal oral sex without the use of a barriers (saran wrap, dental dams) CODE: _____

d. Vaginal oral sex with the use of barriers CODE: _____

e. Oral sex without the use of condoms and swallowing your partners semen CODE: _____

f. Oral sex without the use of condoms and did not swallow your partners semen CODE: _____

g. Oral sex with the use of condoms CODE: _____

h. Anal sex without condoms
(your partner fucking you in the anus/butt) CODE: _____

i. Anal sex with condoms
(your partner fucking you in the anus/butt) CODE: _____

j. rimming without the use of barriers
(licking or putting tongue in/on anus) CODE: _____

k. rimming with the use of barriers
(licking or putting tongue in/on anus) CODE: _____

Are there any other sexual activities you engage in that I didn't mention such as S/M activities? Please specify: _____

105. "In the past three years, have you and your female sexual partners ever used the same dildo, vibrator or other "sex toy" during one sexual encounter?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 107)
- 9= Refused/No answer

106. "Did it get washed after one partner used it but before the other partner used it, or did you use a condom?"

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/ No answer

CODE: _____

107. "In the past three years during sex, were you high, buzzed, or wired on alcohol or any other drug?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No (SKIP TO QUESTION 109)
- 9= Refused/ No answer

108. What were you high, buzzed, or wired on? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1= Alcohol
- 2= Marijuana or hashish
- 3= Cocaine (not including Crack)
- 4= Crack cocaine/rock
- 5= MDA or esctasy
- 6= LSD or psychedelics
- 7= Downers like quaaludes, valium or tranquilizers
- 8= Uppers like speed or crystal
- 9= heroin
- 10= other specify: _____
- 99= refused/not answered

CODE: _____

CODE: _____

CODE: _____

109. "In the past three years have you exchanged sex for money or drugs?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Yes
- 2= No
- 9= Refused/ No answer

110. "How much of an impact has AIDS had on your sexual behavior? Using a 1 to 10 scale, where 1 means it has had no impact at all and 10 means it has had a great deal of impact, please tell me how much of an impact AIDS has had on your sexual behavior."

CODE: _____

111. "What do you consider your sexual orientation to be?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Lesbian
- 2= Bisexual
- 3= Heterosexual
- 4= No sexual orientation
- 5= "Coming out" process
- 6= Refused
- 9= No answer

112. "Can you tell me who first told you about this study?"

CODE: _____

- 1= Recruiter for the study
- 2= Partner/Friend
- 3= Other (Specify: _____)

113. "Can you tell me where you were recruited for this project?"

CODE: _____

- 1. film festival
- 2. lesbian/gay/bisexual pride parade
- 3. women's clinic SPECIFY: _____
- 4. STD clinic
- 5. private doctor/health care provider
- 6. therapist
- 7. nite/dance club SPECIFY: _____
- 8. social support club
- 9. word-of-mouth
- 10. sex club
- 11. lesbian/bisexual women's event (reading, party, concert, etc.)
- 12. political organization
- 13. sports organization
- 14. street fair, specify: _____
- 15. Other, specify: _____

"That concludes the interview. Do you have any questions regarding the survey or questions in general?" Please specify:

Thank you very much for your participation. As you are aware, we are giving you \$30.00 in appreciation of your time for participating in this survey. If you would like any HIV and health-related information, I have materials and information here for you to take with you. Thank you again for contributing to our study.

